

FOI 3099

3rd of June 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The request relates to Coroners' Prevention of Future Deaths Reports (PFDs or Reg 28 letters) issued for deaths ruled to have been caused by suicide.

Please provide the following information for the time period between 1st January 2019 (or the date of inception for your trust) and 5th May 2025, inclusive.

Please send me a copy of every PFD relating to suicide that the Trust received. Please include PFDs received where the Trust was a listed addressee and/or where the Trust was copied for information as an 'interested person'.

Response:

<5

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality. The duty of confidentiality extends beyond death. In line with this duty the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI request is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website. The Trust has also taken account of the fact that suicides can often be the subject of media reporting / social media discussion which would increase the risk for potential identification of an individual and could lead to distress for the families involved.

Section 41 (information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the exact figures from disclosure. Section 41 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test to be carried out under the Freedom of Information Act.

In the spirit of openness and transparency set out in the Freedom of Information Act the Trust has considered what information could be released without the risk of identification of an individual / individuals. The Trust has therefore provided the figure of <5 which indicates low numbers.

Please also send me a copy of the Trust's response to each PFD, clearly marking to which PFD the response refers.

Response:

As per above, Section 41 applies.

Please send me a copy of any internal correspondence which relates to each PFD, clearly marking to which PFD the correspondence refers. This should include:

Minutes from meetings

Response:

This information is not recorded centrally, as such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving it exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Email conversations between staff and contractors

Response:

This information is not recorded centrally, as such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving it exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

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Details of any staff training undertaken

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Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Memos sent

Response:

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Southern Health and Social Care Trust

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Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net