

FOI – 1630

10th May 2023**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

This request relates to FOI 1509 (your reference), in which you stated 17 people with diagnosed eating disorders (primary or secondary diagnosis) were discharged from inpatient services within your trust with a BMI <15 between 1 Jan 2018 and 31 Dec 2022.

Of those 17 inpatients discharged with a BMI <15 (2018-22):

1. **Please state the number of patients that were discharged from a) a specialist inpatient eating disorder service if you have one, and b) general inpatient care.**

All persons noted were discharged from Mental Health Acute admission wards

2. **Please state the number of patients that were a) 18 and above, and b) below 18.**

All persons were over the age of 18

3. **Please state the number of patients who had a BMI of a) 14-14.99, b) 13-13.99, c) 12-12.99 and d) <12**

14-14.99	8
13-13.99	<5
12-12.99	<5
<12	0

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, 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 sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

4. Please state the exact BMI of the patient discharged with the lowest BMI

The Trust cannot provide the exact BMI of the patient discharged with the lowest BMI as this level of detail could lead to the identification of individuals and is considered exempt under section 40(2) of the Act which exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, among other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act. In this case, it is our belief that disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

5. Please state how many were a) self-discharged and b) discharged by the service

<5 self-discharge from inpatient services contrary to medical advice

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6. Please state how many were subject to an MDT-informed clinical assessment before discharge

All individuals would have had an MDT informed clinical assessment throughout their inpatient admission.

7. Please state how many were discharged under a community treatment order

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Southern Health
and Social Care Trust

- Please provide a breakdown of where patients were discharged to - i.e. NHS intensive day-patient care / NHS outpatient care / no onwards care organised by the trust etc. (If data is not recorded or retrievable in this format, please provide any information you have available concerning which NHS or non-NHS treatment/service these patients were discharged to)**

All individuals were discharged to the care of the Community Specialist Eating Disorder Service

Contact: FOI.team@southerntrust.hscni.net