

FOI – 1731

26th June 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

The number of your mental health patients that have committed a homicide between the calendar years 2012 and 2022.

By ‘homicide’ I mean murder, manslaughter, infanticide, or causing death by dangerous driving. By ‘patient’ I mean both community and in-patients who are either current patients or who have had contact with the trust within six months of the offence.

I am not requesting any personal data such as age/gender or even a breakdown of occurrence by month or year, just an overall number from your trust for those calendar years so there should be no data protection or identification issues.

Response:

<5 patients

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.