

FOI 2427

30 May 2024

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**Question 1. How many patients in total were given ECT?**

**Response:**

January 2021-December 2021	32 patients
January 2022-December 2022	20 patients
January 2023-December 2023	13 patients

**Question 2. How many of these patients were female?**

**Response:**

January 2021-December 2021	23 patients
January 2022-December 2022	12 patients
January 2023-December 2023	9 patients

**Question 3. How many of these patients were under 18?**

**Response:**

None

**Question 4. How many of these patients were detained?**

**Response:**

January 2021-December 2021	15 patients
January 2022-December 2022	Less than 5
January 2023- December 2023	Less than 5

**Question 5. How many of these patients were receiving or had been offered psychological therapy in the 6 months prior to getting to ECT?**

**Response:**

This information is not held centrally and thus we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as the Southern Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours or more in determining whether we hold the information locating retrieving and extracting the information.

**Question 6. How many of these patients or their relatives asked for second opinions?**

**Response:**

None

**Question 7. Where second opinions were asked for, what was/were the reasons given?**

**Response:**

No second opinions were requested by patients or relatives.

**Question 8. How many of these patients asked for advocacy services?**

**Response:**

All patients are made aware of the independent mental health advocacy service on admission. For patients who are detained under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, they are informed of their rights under the Order as well as being advised and supported on how to contact the Independent Mental Health Advocate.

**Question 9. Were any complications recorded and if so, what were these?**

**Response:**

Minor side-effects and complications have included headaches, nausea and muscle tenderness. These are managed with simple analgesia and/or antiemetic medications.

**Question 10. Were any Serious Adverse Incidents in relation to ECT registered and what were these?**

**Response:**

None

**Question 11. Were any complaints submitted in relation to ECT treatment?**

**Response:**

None

**Additionally please provide:**

**1. The names of individual wards who had patients receiving ECT during each of these 3-year periods**

Year	Ward	Willows	Cloughmore	Silverwood	Bronte	Rosebrook	Acute medical unit
January 2021- December 2021		11	7	5	5	<5	<5
January 2022- December 2022		<5	<5	<5	0	0	
January 2023 – December 2023		<5	<5	5	<5	<5	

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.

- 2. How many patients from each specific ward received ECT? As above, please provide this information separated into each 3-year period.**

**Response:**

As above.

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