

19 April 2018

**Freedom of Information Request – Ref: FOI 299-1718**

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request about absconding. Please find the Trust's response below.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I am seeking the following pieces of information regarding serious incidents at mental health units which operate within your trust. I would like to receive the following information dating from 2013-present day. I would like the information to be broken down into an annual basis.

1. The total number of deaths at the trust's mental health units (inpatients). I'd like a breakdown of how many were referred to a coroner, the number of unexpected deaths, and those classed as suicide.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>total</b>	0	2	2	18	14
<b>ref to coroner</b>	0	2	2	5	3

*Of those deaths reported to the Coroner all were suspected suicide except 1 unexpected death in 2016 and 1 unexpected death in 2017.*

*Prior to April 2016 we did not record expected patient deaths, i.e. those on end of life care.*

2. The total number of deaths of mental health outpatients. Again, a breakdown of those referred to a coroner, the total number of unexpected deaths, and the total number classed as suicide.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>total</b>	31	32	38	464	663
<b>ref to coroner</b>					
<b>unexpected</b>					
<b>suspected suicide</b>	24	21	20	30	25

***This data, from April 2016, includes those older people who receive memory management in dementia care, where their care is provided in community settings by 3rd party providers.***

***Please note the Trust does not refer community deaths to the Coroner's Office. However, each suspected suicide would involve the Coroner, and each of those was unexpected.***

3. The total number of deaths of mental health patients who had been granted "leave" status at the time of death. Again a breakdown of those referred to a coroner, the total number of unexpected deaths, and the total number classed as suicide.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
total	0	1	1	0	0
ref to coroner	0	1	1	0	0

***The patient in 2014 failed to return from a period of unescorted leave and was later found deceased. The patient was not detained.***

4. The total number of people who absconded from the trust's mental health units. With this, how many times the incidents were reported to the NRLS, as well as the Strategic Executive Information System (STEIS).

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
total number of people					89
Incidents reported to NRLS	72	128	114	186	176
Incidents reported to STEIS	0	1	0	0	0

***Data represents patients detained under Mental Health Act. It is very rare for an absconded patient to come to harm.***

***Please note, a new incident reporting system and database was introduced mid-year 2016 and to obtain the details requested would take longer than 18 hrs to collate from the archived system.***

5. The total number of mental health patients who absconded (went AWOL) from a trust building, versus the total number of patients who absconded whilst under the supervision of staff (i.e. on "leave", supervised or otherwise).

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
escaped					62
left the escort					14
total escaped and/or left escort					69

***The total is the number of mental health inpatients who absconded from a trust building and/or absconded whilst under the supervision of staff. 7 patients both escaped and left an escort during 2017 and are included in both categories.***

6. I'd also like to know specifically how many times a case in which someone absconded led to the harm of a member of public; the harm of the patient who absconded; or the death of the patient who absconded, and a breakdown of whether this was suicide or not.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
public harm					0
patient harm "minor"					5
patient harm "moderate or severe"					0
suicide	0	1	0	0	0

7. Total amount of compensation paid out to member(s) of the public by your trust due to a case of a patient absconding. **Nil**

8. Have any disciplinary actions been taken against staff at one of the mental health units or facilities as a result of a patient absconding? Please state the nature of the discipline (i.e. fine, suspension, firing). **No disciplinary action has taken place.**
9. Have procedures and strategies for stopping patients from absconding changed at all over the last 5 years at the trust? **Observation policies are reviewed annually within the Trust.**
10. What are the total numbers of staff at your mental health units over the stated time period?

The information below is a headcount of Clinical & Admin Staff working in Inpatient services (services running 31 March 2018) - does **not** include Medical & Dental staff (Doctors, Consultants, registrars etc); Support staff (cleaners/porters/catering); Medical Secretaries or bank/agency staff that would have worked in any of these areas on the dates listed

Inpatient Unit/Service	Headcount as at 31 March 2013	Headcount as at 31 March 2014	Headcount as at 31 March 2015	Headcount as at 31 March 2016	Headcount as at 31 March 2017	Headcount as at 13 March 2018
WL	230	220	222	210	225	218
CLH	231	222	217	201	211	239
Herefordshire	107	102	108	94	98	113
<b>Total Inpatient Clinical &amp; Admin Staff</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>570</b>

Should you have any queries in relation to our response in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request and wish to ask us to review our response, you should write to:-

Anna Hilditch  
 Assistant Trust Secretary,  
 2gether NHS Foundation Trust  
 Rikenel  
 Montpellier  
 GLOUCESTER GL1 1LY  
 Tel: 01452 894165  
 E-mail: [anna.hilditch@nhs.net](mailto:anna.hilditch@nhs.net)

If you are not content with the outcome of any review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for further advice/guidance. Generally, the ICO will not consider your case unless you have exhausted your enquiries with the Trust which should include considering the use of the Trust's formal complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

*Lisa Evans*

**LISA EVANS**  
**Information Governance Officer**  
**2gether NHS Foundation Trust**

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or write to: OPSI, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ.