

Information Governance

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11 June 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5232

I am responding to your request for information received 21 February 2024 and clarified on 7 March 2024. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



We promise to work together creatively to: learn
'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
of life and continuously improve our services.
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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please provide the information in the form of a spreadsheet (csv or excel file).

I would like the following data for the period between the beginning of the financial year 2013/14 up to the current date. Please provide the data for each financial year:

Question 1: The number of patients that escaped from all mental health units.

Clarification: By 'escaped patient', I am seeking data on detained inpatients who are/have been logged as either 'AWOL', 'Missing', or 'absconded without permission'. Please make clear in the request which categories these detained inpatients fall into.

For each escaped patient, please provide:

a. Which unit the patient escaped from (Name of unit, hospital or clinic)?

Answer: Please see appendix 1.

b. Whether the unit is a high, medium or low security facility?

Answer: Please see appendix 1.

c. The method of each escape?

Answer: Please see appendix 2.

d. The date and time the patient announced missing?

Answer: Please see appendix 2 for the month the patient went missing.

The Trust has reviewed question 1d of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

In order to provide the specific dates, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the time when patients were announced as missing as requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

e. The date and time the escaped patient was recovered (if patient was not



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recovered, please make this clear)?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1e of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

f. Whether the escapee was serving a hospital order?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1f of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

g. If they were serving a hospital order, what was the charge?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1g of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

h. What was the escapee's mental disorder?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1h of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 40 for the FOI Act states:

(2) This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR.

In order to provide the information requested, it would be necessary to access patient records as the information is not held in a searchable format. There is no legal basis to access patient records for the purposes of responding to a Freedom of Information request. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

