



**East London**

NHS Foundation Trust

**Information Governance**

Robert Dolan House

9 Alie Street

London

E1 8DE

**Email** [elft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:elft.foi@nhs.net)

**Website:** <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

14 June 2024

**Our reference: FOI DA5436**

I am responding to your request for information received 7 June 2024. 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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We promise to work together creatively to: learn 'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality of life and continuously improve our services.  
**We care . We respect . We are inclusive**

**Chief Executive Officer:** Lorraine Sunduza  
**Chair:** Eileen Taylor

**Request:** I would be grateful if you could provide data for the last five full calendar years, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

**Question 1:** I'm interested to learn how many of your patients who were absent without leave (AWOL) under the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA) from any hospitals operated by you either died whilst AWOL or killed someone whilst AWOL. I would be grateful if the answer could distinguish the two points between homicide incidents and other causes, whether that be suicide, misadventure, natural causes, etc..

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 1 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.

**Question 2:** I would also be grateful to know how many of those were from hospitals within Greater London, as opposed to any inpatient services or other healthcare facilities physically situated outside the capital.

**Clarification:** hospitals run by your trust within London as opposed to run by your trust outside of London (because some London MH trusts run services outside the capital, for example).

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 2 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.



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