

# Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

## Reference

21-22242

## Date sent

13/05/22

## Subject

GIC and GIDS suicide 2016-22

## Details of enquiry

Please could you disclose the following:

1. How many patients that have been on the waiting list for both the GIDS and GIC services have attempted suicide and how many have completed suicide.
2. How many patients that have accessed those two services and were undergoing for evaluation for a referral to an endocrinologist or other services related to their gender identity have attempted suicide and how many have completed suicide.

Please provide a breakdown by:

- Year and month from 2016 to the date of search
- Age of the patient
- The patient's respective county
- Assigned gender at birth and the patients chosen gender identity

## Response sent

The Trust confirms that it holds information of this nature, where notified to us by other providers.

The Trust quarterly Board reports provide a retrospective summary of all Mortality Reviews and this has been publicly available in our website Board papers, under Quality Accounts at <https://tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/about-us/governance/board-of-directors/meetings/>. These include board papers covering the 2016 onwards, the period covered by your request.

Mortality Reviews from later Board papers/meetings will continue to be published on a quarterly basis. These are being withheld under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will, in future show data summarised at Trust level only, which is explained in more detail further down.

Under s22 of the FOIA, the Trust is not obliged to provide information intended for future publication, subject to the outcome of a public interest test, which weighs up whether the public interest in disclosing the information now outweighs the public interest in withholding it until its publication date. Please note that 'public interest' is defined here as the public good, and not what is of interest to the public, nor the private interests of the requester.

In line with the terms of this exemption, we weighed up whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with this information ahead of publication. We took into account the following factors:

**Public interest considerations favouring release of the information:**

- Disclosure would provide increased transparency via an early release of data on deaths
- Disclosure of the information under FOIA would be consistent with the Trust's intentions to proactively release data on matters of a wider public interest

**Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information:**

- It is in the public interest that the Trust's Quality Assurance process is able to verify data received, as far as possible
- It is in the wider interest that information is accessible to the public domain by adhering to the Trust's Board papers publication schedule, to ensure that it has adequate time to complete all planned data checks prior to making information available to the public, thereby ensuring confidence and accuracy of available data
- Whilst there is a public interest in providing information within scope of an FOI request as quickly as possible, this needs to be balanced with the public interest in ensuring the data can be accessed simultaneously by the general public rather than piecemeal by disclosure to a small number of applicants under FOIA

We have concluded that, on balance, the public interest is in withholding this information.

The Trust has considered the detailed nature of the suicide statistics requested, covering attempted and actual suicides at both our gender services, namely "actual patients, those on waiting lists, those being evaluated for referral to endocrinology or other gender-related treatments, year and month of their death, age, county of residence, gender assigned at birth, chosen gender identity."

The Trust considers that this level of disclosure, when combined with other information that is or may become available in the public domain, could lead to identification of individuals and cause distress to the individual, and/or their family, friends and wider community.

The Trust has received updated guidance on the release of data, and now adheres closely to the Common Duty of Confidence and the 100-year rule, following guidance from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) on disclosure controls to protect confidentiality within death statistics. This means, going forward, that the Trust will not, in future, break down data around mortality reviews by individual service.

You may be interested to note that where a coroner's inquest is held, linked to a Prevention of future deaths report (Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths), the name of the deceased is published by the coroner and placed into the public domain.

In summary: for the reasons given above, we are unable to supply the level of detail for data that you have requested, nor supply pre-publication mortality reviews. Past mortality review data is available on our website, as indicated above, and future mortality reviews (that protect patients from identification) will be published in the same location once the data is validated.