

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

### Reference

23-24140

### Date response sent

08/08/23

### Subject

Suicide Data & Waiting Times 2018-23

### Details of enquiry

1. How many adult mental health patients (those who have received or are receiving treatment but who have not been discharged from all services) have taken their own life (suicide) for each of the last five full calendar years?
2. How many adult mental health patients have been diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) for each of the last five full calendar years?
3. How many adult mental health patients who have been diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder have taken their own life (suicide) for each of the last five full calendar years?
4. How many deaths of adult mental health patients were considered preventable deaths over the entirety of the last five full calendar years? Please detail the reasons.
5. The longest known time spent by an adult waiting to receive mental health services having been referred for care over the entirety of the last five years?
6. Please state if you provide ONLY adult or child mental health services or both or neither.

### Response sent

1. How many adult mental health patients (those who have received or are receiving treatment but who have not been discharged from all services) have taken their own life (suicide) for each of the last five full calendar years?

**Withheld:** Section 21 of the FOIA, this information is publicly available and accessible by other means

This information is publicly available on our website, within Board Meeting Minutes and the Annual Report and Quality Accounts. You will also find within our FOI Disclosure Log previous relevant responses to Requests. Links to these web pages are as follows:

- a) [Annual reports and quality accounts \(tavistockandportman.nhs.uk\)](https://www.tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/annual-reports-and-quality-accounts)
- b) [Board meetings and board papers \(tavistockandportman.nhs.uk\)](https://www.tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/board-meetings-and-board-papers)
- c) [Freedom of information disclosure log \(tavistockandportman.nhs.uk\)](https://www.tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log)

2. How many adult mental health patients have been diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) for each of the last five full calendar years?  
As you may already be aware, the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust is not an acute mental health hospital, we are a specialist mental health Trust providing day clinics for mainly psychological services via talking therapies.

We do not hold complete data on Borderline Personality Disorder Diagnoses, though we may sometimes diagnose this condition as a patient's secondary and/or pre-existing condition. We generally use a formulative approach, of psychodynamic

formulation to assess and treat, rather than a psychiatric diagnosis such as Borderline Personality Disorder

Where held, diagnoses of Borderline Personality Disorder, including such diagnoses from other agencies would be located within the freetext notes section of a patient's file, which is not electronically searchable and from which we would be unable to run an automated report. This would require a manual trawl of patient files and a manual extraction of the required data.

We estimate that to confirm the recorded number of our patients who received a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder, over the last 5 years would exceed the appropriate limit, under Section 12 of the FOIA. This limit equates to 18 hours' of officer time at £25 per hour for answering a whole request. We would need to examine thousands of records going back 5 years to see whether the information is held, and to locate and extract it, which we estimate would take circa 10 mins per patient record, totalling around 17 hours per thousand records. Accordingly the Trust is not obliged to process this question.

3. How many adult mental health patients who have been diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder have taken their own life (suicide) for each of the last five full calendar years?

We do not hold this data as a complete data set.

Being an outpatient clinic, we cannot be certain that we hold complete data on suicide cases, (see response to Q2 above), and as advised below, we cannot be certain that all our patient deaths have been notified to us, and we will no longer split mortality data by mental health condition or department, due to the low numbers involved (see point 1 below).

Over a year ago, the Trust changed its presentation of mortality data, to prevent the possibility of individuals being identified through triangulation of data, due to the low number of service users who may be referenced. Accordingly the Trust no longer splits its mortality data by department, waiting list, active patients, or any other parameters

The rationale for this approach is:

1. The Trust now follows guidance from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) on disclosure control to protect confidentiality within death statistics, and the Trust will not report mortality numbers by service, due to risks of identification of the low number of service users referenced.

Practical examples of where this has been applied elsewhere are:

- National Confidentiality Inquiry in Suicide and Safety in Mental Health
- Ministry of Defence Suicides in the UK regular armed forces: Annual summary and trends over time 1 January 1984 to 31 December 2020
- Any statistics that are under five will only be referenced as <5

2. The Trust now complies with "The revised guidance on reporting suicide and severe self-harm to NRLS for all providers except those providing specialist mental health services" issued by the National Patients Safety Agency (2012).

- Other providers would meet their responsibilities by ensuring they pass on any information that indicates suicide or self-harm to the relevant specialist mental health trust so they can report it

3. As advised, in response to Q1 above, mortality data, (suicide, death by natural causes, death from other causes) is now published cyclically on our website,

though none of these would answer this question of yours, as we no longer split out available data by department or diagnosis for reasons explained above. Mortality data, as advised to us, is to be found at the following locations on our website:

[Annual reports and quality accounts \(tavistockandportman.nhs.uk\)](http://tavistockandportman.nhs.uk)

[Board meetings and board papers \(tavistockandportman.nhs.uk\)](http://tavistockandportman.nhs.uk)

[Freedom of information disclosure log \(tavistockandportman.nhs.uk\)](http://tavistockandportman.nhs.uk)

4. How many deaths of adult mental health patients were considered preventable deaths over the entirety of the last five full calendar years? Please detail the reasons.

See response to point 2 above

5. The longest known time spent by an adult waiting to receive mental health services having been referred for care over the entirety of the last five years?

The longest wait for an adult from referral received to 1<sup>st</sup> appointment for referrals received over the last 5 years was 1,011 days or 2.77 years

6. Please state if you provide ONLY adult or child mental health services or both or neither.

We provide both Adult and Child Mental Health services.