

Date: 15/01/2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/013833 – Mortuary information

1. Please could you provide me with a list of bodies that have been stored for over 28 days at hospital mortuary, broken down by gender, date admitted, time stored for, and if released, the date of release. Please could you limit the search to the past 36 months. Please could you provide the information in excel or csv format
Information is not recorded in a way that a report can be run.

2) Whether you expecting any mortuary capacity issues due to cold weather this winter, and what your plans to deal with capacity issues are (if you have plans)?
Last year we invested in a bespoke additional body store which has provided an additional 20 spaces, this has made the contingency more robust. As last year was quite warm our contingency was not required and to-date this year we haven't experienced a level of demand over and above our capacity so the contingency appears to be sufficient for our requirements. Yes we have a procedure in the mortuary and the Trust.

3) Can you estimate what percentage of cases are referred for a social funeral? - No, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council may have this information
The Trust conducts contract funerals - 'where a patient has died within The Trust and has no next of kin'.
If a person dies in hospital and has relatives who will not, or cannot arrange a funeral for whatever reason, the death is referred to Dudley MBC for a 'Public Health Funeral'.
The Trust only arranges funerals when there are no next of kin.

4) Could you let me know whether rising funeral costs are responsible for delays in bodies being released?
Not something we would be necessarily be privy to so cannot make comment