

Date: 27/09/2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/014355 – Mortuary

Please can you tell me how many pathologists the trust has employed in each year for the last 6 years?

Question: Please can you tell me how many pathologists the trust has employed in each year for the last 6 years?

2018 - 2

2017 - 6

2016 - 5

2015 - 7

2014 - 7

2013 - 7

Please note that that headcount of pathologists employed each year does not necessarily represent the number of pathologists who undertake post-mortems, nor does it represent the amount of time spent on post mortems

Please note:- A new process for improving our process of recording of activity is planned for the Black Country Pathology Service in 2020 this will retain the data so information is more accessible and more reports will be able to be produced.

For each year over the past 6 years please can you provide me with:

- the date a body arrived at the mortuary
- the date a post mortem was started on this body
- the date release papers were signed to allow this body to be removed from the mortuary following the completion of the post mortem

For a copy of the spreadsheet which contains this information please contact [dgft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.foi@nhs.net) quoting the FOI reference number

The mortuary at Russells Hall Hospital serves the requirements of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and also serves as the Public Mortuary for the Borough of Dudley.

The mortuary provides storage facilities for patients who die in hospital and also for those who die in the community when a post mortem is required

The coroners give permission for nearly all of the post mortems carried out at the Trust, the deaths get reported to the coroner, the coroner giving us permission to do a postmortem, a funeral director will bring the body to the Trust and then a post mortem can be done.

From September 2011 to August 2018

15760 patients transferred to mortuary ( this will include both hospital patients and community patients brought in)  
Arrival Column on spreadsheet

Of these:

2415 post mortems have been requested and carried out (Post Mortem Column on spreadsheet)

Of the 2415 post mortems we have the reports for 1709 cases. (Report date Column on spreadsheet)

Of the remaining 706, these have either not been reported as yet, they may be independent cases or the reports have been completed by an external pathologist who will report them to the coroner