

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-042023-00045

Date: 23rd May 2023

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

For the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022:

- How many post-mortem examinations were performed?
- What was the average number of days between the time of death and the release of the body after a post-mortem examination?
- How many pathologists worked in the trust (in WTE)?

Response

For the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022:

1.How many post-mortem examinations were performed?

2019	386
2020	404
2021	390
2022	377

2.What was the average number of days between the time of death and the release of the body after a post-mortem examination?

Unfortunately, this data is not held electronically and would have to be manually collated and would therefore breach the 18-hour time frame as per section 12 of The Freedom of Information Act.

[Freedom of Information Act 2000 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The [F1 Minister for the Cabinet Office] may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The [F2 Minister for the Cabinet Office] may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

3. How many pathologists worked in the trust (in WTE)?

We have 1 pathologist who works part time at RHH directly for the coroner, since the Histopathology lab have moved over to New Cross, we don't have any pathologists on site working directly for RHH.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113

www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**