

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

Ref: FOI-022025-0001454

Date: 19.3.25

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please see response below.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your compliance with the Learning from Deaths Guidance issued by NHS England (2017) which ensures your trust complies with the National Health Service (Quality Accounts) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

This requires every NHS Trust to annually report (with a quarterly breakdown) the number of patients who died during the reporting period, how many case record reviews or investigations took place, and estimate how many deaths were determined to be likely due to problems in the care provided. It also requires the reporting of a summary of lessons learnt, what actions have been taken as a result, and what the impact of these actions has been.

Included in the Quality Accounts should also be the number of case record reviews and investigations relating to deaths in the previous reporting period that were only concluded in the most recent period and an estimation of how many of those deaths were due to problems in the care provided.

Please provide answers to the following questions for the most recent reporting period (2023/24):

Policy and Governance

- Does your trust currently comply with the requirements of the Learning from Deaths Guidance?
 - Yes
- If not do you have plans to comply with it and if so by when? - N/A

Reporting

- a) How many deaths were reported within your trust during the reporting period (2023/24)? - 1662
- b) How many of these deaths were reviewed, and how many were judged more likely than not to have been avoidable?
 - 197 reviews – two more likely than not to have been avoidable = 0.12% of all deaths
- c) Have you published quarterly reports on learning from deaths on your website, as required by the guidance? Please provide links to the most recent reports.
 - [Board meetings - The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- d) Is information on learning from deaths included in your latest Quality Account? - Yes

Family Involvement

- a) Are families and carers involved in the review process where appropriate?
 - All deaths discussed by Medical Examiner with the family and concerns raised by family sent for Structured Judgement Review. There is a plan going forward to involve families in the review process
- b) Please provide the number of deaths that were reviewed in this period (2023/24) where families and carers were involved and engaged in the review.
 - Discussions with Medical Examiner only.

Actions and Learning

- a) Please provide a summary of all actions taken as a result of the learning from deaths process in the last reporting period.
 - Learning that has been identified is included in the Quality Accounts 23/24. [Annual Reports - The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust](#)

If it is not possible to provide some of the requested information, please explain why and provide what you can.

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