

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

**Ref:** FOI-022024-000654

**Date:** 14/03/2024

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

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

**Request**

*Excluding serious incident reports into self-harming, disruptive, abusive and/or aggressive patient behaviour - and also excluding reports into pressure sores and falls - please provide me with summaries of all serious incident reports (sometimes called 'never event investigation reports', 'patient safety incident investigation' reports and/or 'route cause analysis investigation reports') completed in by your Trust in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 which meet the following criteria:*

- 1. The patient outcome was 'death'*
- 2. Incident occurred in one of the following departments:*

*anaesthetics  
A&E  
acute internal medicine  
acute medicine  
gastro-enterology  
general surgery  
respiratory medicine  
surgery  
trauma and orthopaedic surgery*

- 3. The report includes at least one of the following words or phrases:*

*physician associate  
anaesthesia associate  
physician associates  
anesthesia associates*

*Please ensure each summary extracts the following information from your reports:*

*Date of incident*

- A description of the incident, including the job titles of staff involved*
- Problems and root causes identified during the investigation. Be specific about staffing issues, e.g. if short staffed state staff roles and numbers were on shift, or if an error occurred state the job titles of those involved in this error.*

- *Actions and/or recommendations from the investigation. Be specific, if staff require further training, state which staff, e.g. 'FY2 doctors' or 'physician associates', and what the training involves.*

## Response

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

Although there are no special exemptions in FOIA for information about deceased individuals' records/information, we consider the release of information could be actionable as a breach of confidence, as the deceased's personal representatives would have standing to bring proceedings, exemption Section 41 is applied.

A search has been carried out using the criteria listed in the FOI request and the total number for the years requested is less than 5.

The Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the persons involved and cause distress to Families or Friends.

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](mailto: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](http://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**