

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

**Ref:** FOI-072024-000979

**Date:** 30/07/2024

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

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

**Request**

To whom it may concern,

1) Please tell me separately for 2022/23 and 2023/24 the number of deaths for which a case record review or investigation has been carried out leading to the conclusion that they were more likely than not to have been due to problems in the care provided to the patient.

**NOTE: I understand that one widely used method for determining this is the Royal College of Physicians' Structured Judgement Reviews (SJR) 1-6 system. If this system was used, by "more likely than not" I'm referring to cases with scores of 3 (probably avoidable), 2 (strong evidence of avoidability) and 1 (definitely avoidable).**

2) Please provide me with a brief overview of the FIRST FIVE incidents (in 2023/24 preferably or from 2022/23 if the former is not yet available) identified in question 1 (i.e. cases of deaths that were more likely than not caused by problems in care), withholding any identifying information that would run into a Section 40 exemption.

3) Finally, can you please summarise what the Trust learnt and what actions have been taken as a result of these five cases highlighted in question 2?

**Response**

**Q1. Please tell me separately for 2022/23 and 2023/24 the number of deaths for which a case record review or investigation has been carried out leading to the conclusion that they were more likely than not to have been due to problems in the care provided to the patient.**

| <b><u>Cases for 2022/23</u></b> | <b><u>Case for 2023/24</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>&lt;5</b>                    | <b>&lt;5</b>                   |

**The Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved and cause distress to families and friends. The number of deaths for which a case record review or investigation has been carried out leading to conclusion for the requested years is less than 5, therefore, exemption Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act has been applied.**

**Q2. Please provide me with a brief overview of the FIRST FIVE incidents (in 2023/24 preferably or from 2022/23 if the former is not yet available) identified in question 1 (i.e. cases of deaths that were more likely than not caused by problems in care), withholding any identifying information that would run into a Section 40 exemption.**

The Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved and cause distress to families and friends. The number of deaths for which a case record review or investigation has been carried out leading to conclusion for the requested years is less than 5, therefore, exemption Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act has been applied.

**Q3. Finally, can you please summarise what the Trust learnt and what actions have been taken as a result of these five cases highlighted in question 2?**

The Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved and cause distress to families and friends. The number of deaths for which a case record review or investigation has been carried out leading to conclusion for the requested years is less than 5, therefore, exemption Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act has been applied.

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**