

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

Ref: FOI-032026-0002295

Date: 27.03.2026

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

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

1. The number of deaths for which the medical examiner signed the MCCD form within 5 days of the date of death at your trust per month, from September 2024 to December 2025.
2. The number of deaths for which the medical examiner signed the MCCD form more than 5 days after death at your trust per month, from September 2024 to December 2025.

Response to questions 1 and 2 MCCD signed and sent within and longer than 5 days (1+2)

| Sep-24 | | Oct-24 | | Nov-24 | | Dec-24 | |
|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days |
| 117 | 29 | 132 | 24 | 148 | 27 | 137 | 40 |

| Jan-25 | | Feb-25 | | Mar-25 | | Apr-25 | |
|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days |
| 197 | 29 | 132 | 34 | 142 | 30 | 147 | 14 |

| May-25 | | Jun-25 | | Jul-25 | | Aug-25 | |
|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days |
| 120 | 24 | 103 | 10 | 112 | 27 | 111 | 27 |

| Sep-25 | | Oct-25 | | Nov-25 | | Dec-25 | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days | ≤5 days | >5 days |
| 91 | 27 | 137 | 26 | 128 | 25 | 147 | 38 |

3. For each month, please share the length of the longest delay experienced at the trust that month between date of death and ME signature.

Longest delays, in days (3)

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 |
| Longest delay (days) | 6 | 14 | 7 | 26 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | Apr-25 |
| Longest delay (days) | 15 | 10 | 12 | 6 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | May-25 | Jun-25 | Jul-25 | Aug-25 |
| Longest delay (days) | 13 | 8 | 15 | 17 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Sep-25 | Oct-25 | Nov-25 | Dec-25 |
| Longest delay (days) | 28 | 22 | 14 | 17 |

4. For each month, please share the length of the shortest time elapsed between date of death and ME signature.

Shortest delays, in days (4)

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 |
| Shortest delay (days) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | Apr-25 |
| Shortest delay (days) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | May-25 | Jun-25 | Jul-25 | Aug-25 |
| Shortest delay (days) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Sep-25 | Oct-25 | Nov-25 | Dec-25 |
| Shortest delay (days) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

5. For each month, please share the average (mean) number of days between dates of death and ME signatures of MCCD forms.

Average time taken, in days (5)

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 |
| Average (days) | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | Apr-25 |
| Average (days) | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | May-25 | Jun-25 | Jul-25 | Aug-25 |
| Average (days) | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Sep-25 | Oct-25 | Nov-25 | Dec-25 |
| Average (days) | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |

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