

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3671

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Service Centre
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

09 December 2016

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to funeral services.

- 1. Is a contract or framework agreement in place for funeral services in the circumstances where the Trust has responsibility for these matters?*
- 2. If there is not a contract or framework in place, in the absence of any contractual arrangements, how are these matters dealt with by the Trust?*
- 3. If there is a contract or framework agreement in place:*
 - a. Please describe each contract relating to funeral services and the specific service areas each contract covers. We consider funeral services to cover adult burials or cremations, child burials or cremations, stillbirth burials or cremations, individual fetal remains burials or cremations and communal fetal remains burials or cremations.*
 - b. Who is the contract awarding body for each contract?*
 - c. What specific institutions and healthcare settings does the contract cover? Please provide a list of the individual institutions and/or settings.*
 - d. For each contract(s), please outline any lots that the contract is broken down into?*
 - e. If the contract is divided into lots, please describe the specific geographies/institutions/services included within each contract lot?*
 - f. Who is the present contract holder, including by lot if applicable?*
 - g. When was the contract(s) for funeral services last let?*
 - h. What is the term of the contract(s)?*
 - i. What are the extensions to the term that are permissible within the contract(s)?*
 - j. What were the activity levels (approximate number/volume) in the last full financial year of each of the funeral service types listed in 3a above? I.e. number of adult burials or cremations, number of child burial or cremations etc.*
 - k. What was the total spent funeral services in each of the last three years of the contract, broken down by contracts for individual funeral service lines (3a)*

or lots where they exist? Please confirm the year definition used in the response.

l. What are the contact details for the procurement lead who will be responsible for re-tendering of this contract when the term ends (include individual, job role, organisation, address, phone number and email as available)?

1. Yes

2. Not Applicable

3. One contract:-

Full separate adult funerals – Cremations

Full separate NVF funerals 13 weeks + – Cremations and Burials

Blessing/prayers ceremony for POC's – Cremations

b. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

c. Maidstone Hospital and Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury.

d. Adults and Babies

e. Adults and Babies receive a separate funeral service

f. Pickard and Beale Funeral Directors

g. May 2013

h. Three years

i. One year

j. Adults - April 15 – March 16 9

Babies - 13 weeks + - April 15 – March 16 100

POC – Unknown – not dealt with by Bereavement

k. This information can be found on the Trust website using the following link:

<http://www.mtw.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/> ID 3303

l. Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust receives a number of requests for details relating to the professional lives of our staff from private individuals and organisations, some of whom are involved in recruitment and marketing. We are aware that approaches from some of these organisations, as a result of any disclosure on our part, may lead to damage and distress to individuals whose roles and responsibilities would not normally be public facing or a level where the expectation would be that this information should be in the public domain. On very rare occasions it might be considered in the public interest to disclose some information but in such cases the views of the individual staff concerned is always sought.

The Trust has therefore decided that in future all such requests will normally be refused using the limitations available under Section 10 and Section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The information you have requested is therefore exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Trust does, however, release details of staff on Associate Director or above. Procurement falls within the remit of the Director of finance and further details can be found on the Trust website using the following link:

<http://www.mtw.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/> ID 3431