

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4534

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ

Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

27 March 2018

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 deaths referred to the Coroner.

You asked:

1) *A monthly breakdown of deaths in your hospital trust referred to the coroner for the years:*

- a. 2014
- b. 2015
- c. 2016
- d. 2017

2) *For the answers to Q1 please include i) the reason for the referral; ii) the primary health complaint of the patient when admitted to hospital; iii) how long the deceased had been in hospital; iv) what further action was taken (i.e. no further action, inquest, post-mortem etc.)*

3) *A monthly breakdown of deaths in your hospital trust that led to a coroner inquest for the years:*

- a. 2014
- b. 2015
- c. 2016
- d. 2017

4) *For the answers to Q3 please include i) the reason for the inquest; ii) the primary health complaint of the patient when admitted to hospital; iii) how long the deceased has been in hospital; iv) the conclusion of the inquest*

Trust response:

1.

	Deaths Referred to the Coroner By Month											
	Ja n	Fe b	Marc h	Apri l	Ma y	Jun e	Jul y	Au g	Sep t	Oc t	No v	De c
2014	13	13	22	16	8	5	12	19	6	12	10	24
2015	24	21	14	15	18	17	12	17	20	12	14	18

2016	12	16	15	15	20	10	18	17	12	17	12	25
2017	19	13	19	20	16	13	17	18	13	15	19	16

2. This information is not held electronically and would require the manual checking of patient notes. The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

3. a, b & c.

This information is not held electronically and would require the manual checking of patient notes. The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

d.

	Deaths That Led To Coroner Inquest by Month											
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5

This Information may not be accurate as we are not always told by the coroner's office if a referral turns into an inquest unless the request for the doctors' statement comes through Bereavement. A 'normal' PM referral can turn into an inquest as well but we may not be informed.

Due to the very small number of cases and in order to protect patient confidentiality the Trust has decided that further information be refused using the limitations available under Section 10 and Section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

4. The Trust is unable to answer this question because we do not always know the reason for the inquest and we do not receive back the results of any inquest undertaken