



**Maidstone and  
Tunbridge Wells**  
NHS Trust

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6554

**Please reply to:**  
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19 April 2021

### **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 Suicides.

*You asked:*

*1) Total Deaths registered as Suicide with The Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust between the dates of:*

- a) 1.3.2019 and 1.3.2020*
- b) 1.3.2020 and 1.3.2021*
- c) 1.3.2021 and 12.4.2021*

*2) These figures broken down into the following age categories:*

- a) 0 - 20 years*
- b) 21 - 40 years*
- c) 41 - 60 years*
- d) 61 - 80 years*
- e) 81 - 100 years*

Trust response:

If a patient commits suicide at home and are successful an ambulance will be called but this will not come to the hospital and therefore not in our data.

Likewise if suicide is attempted but not successful and they do come to A&E, we are unable to identify attempted suicide in A&E data as the A&E coding will show the problem not the cause, i.e. diagnosis of poisoning in A&E could be used for example where a person ingested something to try and commit suicide, but the fact that it was an attempted suicide would not form part of the A&E diagnosis so we could not identify this, and ICD10 coding is not used in A&E.

Many who go through A&E will not be admitted, but where they are admitted and of those which have the F12 code specified which we can only pick these up when looking at admitted patients, we still can only use the X60-X84 to

identify the self-harm but still cannot be clear that the intention was to kill themselves.

We have also been advised that the accident codes for suicide etc. (which is the X60-X84) are very rarely seen on patient's notes because the patients do not reach the wards in time.

Further information on a National level can be found using the following website links:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/searchpublication?q=suicide>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/standardofproofsuicidedata>

Please note that we are providing these links under Section 21 of the FOI Act.