

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7148

Please reply to:
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13 January 2022

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 Contract funerals.

You asked:

- 1. What is the cost of a contract funeral to the trust?*
- 2. How many funerals did you undertake for 2020 and 2021?*
- 3. What was the breakdown for burials vs cremations?*
- 4. What was the average time from death to funeral?*
- 5. How often is the contract re-tendered?*

Trust response:

1. The Trust is applying Section 43(2) FOIA which provides an exemption from disclosure of information which would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

The Trust believes that the information requested contains details which would be likely to damage the companies ability to win new business opportunities for their services and to perform them within a commercially competitive market.

The Trust has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption, and therefore protecting the commercial interests of the suppliers and preserving its ability to compete fairly in a commercial market, outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this case.

Supplier Transactions

All NHS bodies are required to publish details of individual invoices and transactions that are over £25,000. This is in response to guidance from HM Treasury which sets out the scope of the data. Details can be found on our website using the following link: www.mtw.nhs.uk/about-us/our-quality-story/finance/

2. In 2020: 48 hospital funerals.

In 2021: 45 hospital funerals.

3. All contract funerals are cremations we do not carry out burials.

4. This information is not held in a reportable format and would require manual calculations and the checking of individual patient records and is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the act. However, we can say that the funerals for babies are usually completed much quicker than adults as long as the paperwork is completed correctly. Adult funerals take longer especially if we required the services of an heir-hunter, which can then be one month plus.

5. The service route to market will be decided based on the volumes and values post pandemic. The service provision is on the work plan for 2023/24