



Kent and Medway
NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust
Information Governance & Records Management Department

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Sent via email

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Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 43125 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding: -

Escaped Patients

Your request is set out below:

I would like the following data for the period between the beginning of the financial year 2013/14 up to the current date. Please provide the data for each financial year:

The number of detained patients that escaped (missing, absconded, AWOL) from all mental health units. For each escaped patient, please provide:

- a. Which unit the patient escaped from (Name of unit, hospital or clinic)
- b. Whether the unit is a high, medium or low security facility
- c. The method of each escape
- d. The date and time the patient announced missing
- e. The date and time the escaped patient was recovered (if patient was not recovered, please make this clear)
- f. Whether the escapee was serving a hospital order
- g. If they were serving a hospital order, what was the charge
- h. What was the escapee's mental disorder

If the inpatients in question fall into the any of these categories, please make clear whether they are:

- Absent from hospital without having section 17 leave granted. (Please also make clear how the patient absconded from the unit).
- Failed to return at the designated time from a period of section 17 leave
- Absconded from the place of safety to which they have been taken or absconded from holding power
- Failed to return to hospital following recall from CTO, section 17 leave or conditional discharge

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Trust Chair – Dr Jackie Craissati
Chief Executive – Sheila Stenson

Please see attached spreadsheet which provides the following information –

- The number of detained patients who were recorded as absconded or AWOL whilst detained under a Mental Health section from each location within the Trust.

Due to some low numbers (those recorded as fewer than 5) involved in the response to your request I would like to confirm that we are unable to release the information, in full. We are not obliged, under section 40 (2) FOIA to provide information that is personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance we believe that the figures are significantly low enough that identification of those involved could be made, and would therefore contravene the first Data Protection principle, therefore section 40 (2) is engaged. The terms of this exemption in the freedom of information act mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You will also note that the trust has been unable to break this data down into the specific detail you have requested. This is due to the fact that all information requested is not routinely collected outside normal record keeping of an incident record. The requested information is not held centrally and is contained within the individual clinical records and archive systems which cannot be extracted as a standalone piece of data. In order to extract the requested information and collate the results would require a manual exercise to identify and review clinical records and would exceed the appropriate time limits, as per the Freedom of Information Act 2000 section 12(1) which does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

I confirm that the information above completes your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am also pleased to confirm that no charge will be made for this request.

If you have any questions or concerns or are unhappy with the response provided or the service you have received you can write to the Head of Information Governance at the address on top of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of
The Information Governance Department