

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 7 November 2024

Public Authority: Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Address: Trust Headquarters
Bury New Road
Prestwich
M25 3BL

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant has requested from Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust) information about the number of patients that have either died by suicide or complications arising from a suicide attempt over a ten-year period.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the Trust breached section 10(1) of FOIA by failing to provide a valid response to the request within the statutory time frame of 20 working days.
3. The Commissioner does not require further steps to be taken.

Request and response

4. On 23 August 2023, the complainant wrote to the Trust and requested information in the following terms:

"I would like a breakdown of the quantity of patients under mental health services in Manchester that have either died by suicide or complications arising from a suicide attempt for each service (In-patient [by ward], EWS, SPA, Recovery [by area], CRHT etc) for each year over the last 10 years with the figure for 2023 being to date and not the year in full."

5. The Trust responded to the request on 23 October 2024.

Scope of the case

6. The complainant has confirmed that they are happy with the information they have now received but wish to have the late response formally recorded.

Reasons for decision

7. Section 1(1) of FOIA states that:

“Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled –

 - (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
 - (b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.”
8. Section 10(1) of FOIA states that a public authority must respond to a request promptly and “not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt”.
9. From the evidence provided to the Commissioner in this case, it is clear that the Trust did not deal with the request for information in accordance with FOIA. The Commissioner therefore finds that the Trust has breached section 10(1) by failing to respond to the request within 20 working days.

Right of appeal

10. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

11. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
12. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Pamela Clements
Group Manager
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Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF