



FOI REF: 21/153

7th April 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

I write to request the total number of deaths caused by Covid-19 alone, where the only cause of death on the death certificate was solely caused by the Covid-19 virus? I would like this information for Eastbourne & East Sussex during 2020 & 2021 please.

To clarify, I see the figures published online, but I know that they cover mortality within 28 day's of a positive test, so death may have been due to other causes. I would like the exact mortality figures for Covid-19 only please.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record whether a patients' death was caused by Covid-19 only. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of over 700 death certificates.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

However, the Trust can confirm that the vast majority of our deaths were in elderly people with multiple co-morbidities and so almost nobody had COVID-19 only on their death certificate.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to Lynette Wells, Director of Corporate Affairs, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (lynette.wells2@nhs.net) quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

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Corporate Governance Manager
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