



2nd July 2021

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:

- 1. The number of patients who were positive with Covid-19 who you discharged into care homes since you started recording patients suffering with coronavirus.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust only started recording whether patients were recovered from Covid-19 on discharge at the end of January 2021. From the end of January 2021 to the end of June 2021, 51 patients were discharged to care homes with a status of recovered from Covid-19.

From the start of the pandemic to the end of June 2021, 284 patients were discharged to care homes with a Covid-19 diagnosis but information about whether they were recovered or had a positive diagnosis is not available without reviewing the health record of each patient. We are therefore applying Section 12(1).

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.

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We have however, provided a breakdown of the 284 patients that were discharged to care homes with a Covid-19 diagnosis in the table below and note that we are unable to confirm if these patients were positive or recovered at the time of discharge without a manual review of patients' notes:

Month	Count
Apr-20	12
May-20	21
Jun-20	9
Jul-20	5
Aug-20	7
Sep-20	1
Oct-20	1
Nov-20	8
Dec-20	30
Jan-21	117
Feb-21	80
Mar-21	33
Apr-21	7
May-21	2
Jun-21	2

- 2. The number of patients who had recovered from Covid-19 who you discharged into care homes since you started recording patients suffering with coronavirus.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust only started recording whether patients were recovered from Covid-19 on discharge at the end of January 2021. From the end of January 2021 to the end of June 2021, 51 patients were discharged to care homes with a status of recovered from Covid-19.

- 3. The care homes these patients were discharged into.**

I can confirm that we hold this information but it is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Personal Information of third parties. This is because this information may allow the identification of patients and disclosure would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act.

- 4. The dates that these discharges happened.**

Please see the table above.

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 the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

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