



FOI REF: 21/159

27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Eastbourne District General Hospital  
Kings Drive  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://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 would be grateful if you would confirm the number of deceased patients who died solely with Covid 19 as the registered causation of death and no other existing illness from the period 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.**

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 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.

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](mailto:lynette.wells2@nhs.net)) quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)  
Corporate Governance Manager  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)