



FOI REF: 21/233

27th May 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:

- How many public health funerals the trust has undertaken for patients who have died of Covid (within 28 days of the first positive test) with no known relatives or next of kin.**

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I'm looking for information relating to the period between March 2 2020 and March 2 2021. Can the information please be broken down by ethnicity, age and gender for each patient? If doing this exceeds the cost limit and the scope needs narrowing, could ethnicity be prioritised, followed by age, please?

Whilst I can confirm that we hold the information in relation to the age of the patient, we are not prepared to disclose this information as the patient could be identified and this would breach the principles of the Data Protection. I am therefore applying a section 40(2) exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Personal Information of third parties. However, we have provided the age range of the patient instead, please see below:

Ethnicity	White British	White British	White British	White British	White British	White British	White British
Age Range	51-55	56-60	61-65	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85
Female	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Male	-	-	2	1	3	3	1

2. How many Covid deaths (within 28 days of the first positive test) have been recorded by the trust between March 2 2020 and March 2 2021.

From the first COVID death recorded within East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (20th March 2020) to the end of the second wave (8th March 2021), there was a total of 719 deaths from COVID.

3. How much a public health funeral typically costs the trust, and if possible, how much has been spent on public health funerals by the trust between March 2 2020 and March 2 2021.

Average cost per funeral - £1272.00

Cost for stated period - £5,917 (reimbursement received for balance total)

4. The relationship between the trust and the local authority/authorities when it comes to public health funerals and the processes involved in deciding who is responsible for arranging them.

- The Trust arranges public health funerals for those who die whilst in their care.
- Local authorities arrange public health funerals for those who die in the community.

5. What is provided by the trust at a public health funeral.

- Coffin
- Professional services of contracted funeral director
- Hospital Chaplain or services of appropriate cultural/religious celebrant
- Taped music

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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Corporate Governance Manager
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