

FOI REF: 21/393

Eastbourne District General Hospital
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Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

30th August 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:

Please note that we are East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) and therefore our response relates to this Trust and not East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust.

- 1. How many people died of Covid-19 in the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust in the period January 2020-December 2020 (inclusive) with a breakdown of their ages.**

Clarification was sought asking you to confirm what is meant by 'died from Covid 19' please? Do these questions relate to deaths of patients who have died and have either tested positive for Covid-19 or where Covid-19 is documented as a direct or underlying cause of death on part 1 or part 11 of the death certificate? If linked solely to the death certificate, can you please specify whether only Covid-19 should be recorded under part 1a (main cause) or should Covid Pneumonitis be included as well? If the patient has any other causes listed alongside Covid-19 under part 1a (main cause) should these patients be included in the count as well? Confirmation was received that you require the following:

Perhaps you could let me know how many patients died from Covid when they had no underlying health conditions in the year 2020. Would that be a more straightforward question? This would be the patients that are used for the statistics the government give out, they do not mention in these graphs what goes down on the death certificate (well I haven't seen it if they do).

5 patients were submitted via the Covid-19 Patients Notification System for ESHT with a date of death in 2020 with no pre-existing conditions listed. Please note a historical review of these patients has revealed at least two of these patients have been Clinically Coded as having underlying health conditions during their last hospital spell.

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2. **Could you tell me how many deaths from all causes have occurred in the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust annually for the last ten years. i.e. total deaths in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014,2015,2016,2017,2018, 2019, 2020.**

Please see the table below for the number of patients admitted to ESHT who have been discharged as deceased.

Please note, it does not include patients who were not admitted, so they may have died on arrival to hospital in A&E

Year	Total In Hospital Deaths
2020	1744
2019	1706
2018	1703
2017	1806
2016	1783
2015	1852
2014	1739
2013	1973
2102	1932
2011	1980
2010	2135

The following data is taken from ESHT's mortality database. The database started in September 2013, so full years can only be provided from 2014. This data includes patients who have died in Accident and Emergency but not Rye hospital - hence the difference from the numbers above.

Year	Deaths
2020	1833
2019	1814
2018	1827
2017	1937
2016	1906
2015	1921
2014	1854

Please note that there is a slight difference, which approximates to 2 patients per week across the Trust, due to those patients who arrive in extremis and succumb within the next couple of hours, whilst still receiving their treatment in the Emergency department. These do not appear as hospital inpatient deaths, as this group contains only those patients admitted from the Emergency department to an inpatient area. These patients are, however, captured on the mortality database, which includes patients who pass away in the Emergency Department or on arrival.

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

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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