

FOI REF: 21/463

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28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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## 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 provide information showing the number of RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013) reports submitted to the HSE (Health & Safety Executive) since 1st March 2020 in relation to the following:**

1. **accidents or incidents at work which have, or could have, led to the release or escape of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) (dangerous occurrences).**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust has reported 1 (one) dangerous occurrence to the Health and Safety Executive from 1st March 2020 to 30th September 2021.

2. **a person at work (a worker) having been diagnosed as having COVID-19 attributed to an occupational exposure to coronavirus (a case of disease).**

Clarification was sought with regard to question 2, as the Health and Safety Executive remain fully aware that as a result of the ongoing reviews, staff RIDDOR events will be reported late and beyond the time frame required by RIDDOR. As a result we would not be able to provide an accurate response as the numbers of cases remain under investigation nationally. We asked you to confirm if you still wish us to respond to this question or if you would like to rephrase the question? Confirmation was received as follows:

In answer to your question, I would like to maintain the same question, asking:

"Please provide information showing the number of RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013) reports submitted to the HSE (Health & Safety Executive) since 1st March 2020 to the date of request, in relation to a person at work (a worker) having been diagnosed as having COVID-19 attributed to an occupational exposure to coronavirus (a case of disease)."

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**I appreciate investigations are ongoing; however, I am interested in the number of reports submitted thus far, and within the specified time period.**

The Trust has reported 60 cases of potential work related Covid to the Health and Safety Executive from 1st March 2020 to 30th September 2021.

The Trust would also like to bring to the requesters attention; the guidance issued by NHS Employers in May 2020 (now withdrawn) and also the [Health and Safety Executive](#).

Information relating to East Sussex Infection rates may be found on the website of [East Sussex County Council](#).

National reports of information relating to potential work related acquisition of Covid may be found on the Health and Safety Executives website [Management information: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) disease reports made by employers since 10 April 2020 \(hse.gov.uk\)](#) .

**3. the death of a worker as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus (a work-related death due to exposure to a biological agent).**

There have been no cases of work related death due to potential exposure to coronavirus.

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](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

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