

FOI REF: 24/498

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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25th July 2024

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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:

- 1) **Please tell me separately for 2022/23 and 2023/24 the number of deaths for which a case record review or investigation has been carried out leading to the conclusion that they were more likely than not to have been due to problems in the care provided to the patient.**

[2022/23 - 3](#)

[2023/24 - 2](#)

- 2) **Please provide me with a brief overview of the FIRST FIVE incidents (in 2023/24 preferably or from 2022/23 if the former is not yet available) identified in question 1 (i.e. cases of deaths that were more likely than not caused by problems in care), withholding any identifying information that would run into a Section 40 exemption.**

[2022/23](#)

- 2.1 [Prolonged operative time due to equipment failure, resulting in lengthy alternative procedure to continue with the operation.](#)
- 2.2 [Patient refused observations and was left to sleep through the night but was found unresponsive the following morning.](#)
- 2.3 [Patient admitted with back pain relating to degenerative disease. Developed hospital acquired pneumonia on day 19 and recovered but developed Covid on day 31, which was treated appropriately but succumbed to Covid infection.](#)

[2023/24](#)

[The information requested for 2023/24 is not yet available.](#)

Cont.../

3) Finally, can you please summarise what the Trust learnt and what actions have been taken as a result of these five cases highlighted in question 2?

2022/23

- 3.1 Senior anaesthetist required for large volume prostate surgery. Consideration should be given to staging of procedure when equipment failure is encountered.

Patient's comorbidities should be taken into account during pre-operative decision making.

- 3.2 Documentation of capacity assessment when patient refusing observations / treatments. Escalation when NEWS2 score is high.

Learning as to how to document when observations cannot be taken due to patient refusal, and how/when next observations reminder is then given by central system

- 3.3 Not yet available as we are awaiting documentation

2023/24

The information requested for 2023/24 is not yet available.

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, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net