NHS
Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am asking for this information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I am interested in the number of incidents per month where a patient died, after they were referred to your NHS trust for non-emergency consultant-led elective treatment but had yet to start treatment. i.e. While the patient was on an 'incomplete pathway' following a referral for consultant-led elective treatment.

According to the 2018/19 Annual Report for RTT waiting time statistics for consultant-led elective care, there are a number of activities that end the Referral To Treatment (RTT) pathway. One of these is if the 'patient died before treatment'. [See pages 4 and 26].

I have already asked NHS England for these data on a monthly basis but have been told it does not collate them at a national level.

However, I was told that provider organisations do record when a patient dies while on an incomplete pathway, which makes sense if the statistics are to be accurate.

As I am sure you know, every month providers pass data on incomplete RTT pathway statistics to NHS England – see here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2020-21/

These give figures for the 'Total number of incomplete pathways' for each acute trust, broken down by 'Treatment Function' (e.g. Urology, Trauma & Orthopaedics etc). There is also a combined Total for each trust. For example, at Barts Health NHS Trust the 'Total number of incomplete pathways' outstanding in July 2020 was 77,356.

Please can you tell me:

The total number of occasions per calendar month when a patient died while on an incomplete RTT pathway, for each month from January 2018 to the latest available month (July 2020, or August 2020 if that data becomes available in the 20-day FOI processing period).

Month	Number of Clock Stops with Treatment Status of "Patient died before treatment"
Jan-2018	92
Feb-2018	71
Mar-2018	59
Apr-2018	51
May-2018	61
Jun-2018	43
Jul-2018	55
Aug-2018	54
Sep-2018	95
Oct-2018	55
Nov-2018	49
Dec-2018	65
Jan-2019	85
Feb-2019	69
Mar-2019	61
Apr-2019	64
May-2019	48
Jun-2019	43
Jul-2019	64

Aug-2019	73
Sep-2019	49
Oct-2019	62
Nov-2019	58
Dec-2019	72
Jan-2020	73
Feb-2020	45
Mar-2020	67
Apr-2020	72
May-2020	80
Jun-2020	45
Jul-2020	52
Aug-2020	53

Please be aware that this should be seen in context of the total number of 'incomplete pathways' each month.