

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Q1. Are there any Specialist Palliative Care Units (SPCUs) within your Trust? If yes, please provide the name and address of these.

No

Q2. Please provide information on the following within your Trust between **January 2023 and December 2025 (inclusive)**. Broken down by year if possible:

- i) The number of suicides in SPCUs (by adults 18+)
- ii) The number of attempted suicides in SPCUs (by adults 18+)

The Trust does not hold the requested information in a recorded or reportable format. The Trust does not record “suicide” or “attempted suicide” as a definitive, searchable data field within its clinical or operational systems. The legal determination of suicide is made by a **Coroner** following an inquest and is not routinely fed back into Trust systems in a structured or coded way that would allow reliable searching or reporting.

In addition:

- The Trust does not maintain a central dataset that records suicides or attempted suicides by location type (such as Specialist Palliative Care Units).
- Information relating to deaths or incidents may exist across multiple systems (for example incident reporting systems or free-text clinical records), but these are not held in a way that allows accurate identification or aggregation of suicides or attempted suicides.
- Any attempt to identify such cases would require manual review and clinical interpretation of individual patient records, which would amount to the creation of new information rather than the provision of recorded information held by the Trust.

The Trust therefore confirms that the information requested at Question 2 is not held for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act.

Q3. Please provide information on the following within your Trust between **January 2023 and December 2025 (inclusive)**, excluding data provided in Q2. Broken down by year if possible:

- i) The number of suicides in any hospital ward by patients receiving specialist palliative care (by adults aged 18+)
- ii) The number of attempted suicides in any hospital ward by patients receiving specialist palliative care (by adults aged 18+)

The Trust does not hold the requested information in a recorded or reportable format.

The Trust does not hold a dataset that would allow it to reliably identify:

- Patients who were receiving specialist palliative care at the time of an incident, and
- Whether a death or incident was later determined to be a suicide or attempted suicide, and
- The specific ward location in which this occurred, and
- A year-by-year breakdown of such events.

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As with Question 2, the determination of suicide is made by a Coroner and is not routinely recorded within Trust systems as a searchable or coded outcome. Information relating to incidents, deaths, or safeguarding concerns may exist in narrative or free-text form, but the Trust does not hold this information in a structured format that would allow extraction or reporting for the purposes of this request.

Providing an answer to Question 3 would require manual review of individual patient records, cross-referencing multiple systems, and retrospective clinical judgement. The Freedom of Information Act does not require public authorities to create new information or undertake such analysis.

The Trust therefore confirms that the information requested at Question 3 is not held.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to d.wraith@nhs.net.

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

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