

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2021.983
Released – 15 November 2021

Thank you for your email received 21 October 2021 requesting information regarding cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19.

Please find detailed below a summary of your request, together with our response.

Summary of your original request:

Please can you tell me how many cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19 the Trust has had since 1st March 2020 to the present day. Please break this down by probable and definite nosocomial infections if this data is available.

Please also give me the number of deaths from hospital acquired Covid-19 infections (probable and definite cases). If you are able, in each case, please can you tell me if you informed the patient's relative that it was a hospital acquired infection.

The information you have requested is currently part of a larger piece of work being undertaken by the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust with a view to being published at a later date; therefore it is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) as it is information intended for future publication.

I detail below the relevant excerpt of the Act.

Section 22 - information held with a view to its future publication

(1) Information is exempt information if—

(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),

(b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and

(c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and is subject to the public interest test. Therefore we have considered the public interest in releasing the information against the interest in withholding it.

There is a public interest in transparency being demonstrated by releasing the information with this reply. However, transparency is also achieved as this information is intended to be published in the future.

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

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There is a public interest in the Trust providing information they hold that falls within the scope of a Freedom of Information request as quickly as possible but this also needs to be balanced with the public interest in the Trust ensuring the maximum cost effectiveness. Providing this information in response to a request is not the most cost-effective way of placing this information in the public domain when it will be published in due course.

We have therefore concluded that the public interest in withholding this information outweighs the public interest in releasing it at this time.