

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2023.303
Released – 2 February 2023**

Thank you for your email received 13 January 2023 requesting information regarding delayed discharge and waiting times.

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

Summary of your original request:

Please provide me with the following information from your trust. In all references to years I am asking for the information from the entire calendar year (January to December inclusive).

1. The total number of deaths considered more likely than not to have occurred due to problems in care in the trust for each quarter for which records are available

We have one death considered more likely than not to have occurred due to problems in care recorded for May 2018.

2. The highest number of days of delayed discharge in your trust in of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the requested information for this part of your request as this information is not recorded centrally. It would require a manual review of daily situation reports which would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

I have detailed below the relevant excerpt:

Section 12

12. — (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

3. The longest waiting time recorded in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for a patient to receive the result of each of the following diagnostic tests:

- a. Magnetic Resonance Imaging test (MRI)**
- b. Echocardiogram**
- c. Non-obstetric ultrasound**

The Trust does not carry out these diagnostic tests; therefore we do not hold information for this part of your request.

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

4. The longest period of time that a patient spent on a waiting list for a non urgent operation in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. For each year, please also include, if possible, which category of operation is concerned.

The only surgery carried out by the Trust is podiatric surgery. We have provided below the longest period in weeks that a patient has waited from referral to first appointment with the service.

Often patients will ask for an opinion, require various investigations and may try other therapy in the first instance before attending an appointment with the service and referrals are not closed between these pockets of activity.

Year	Ref-first Average	Ref-first Longest
2018	17	203
2019	9	164
2020	19	95
2021	9	104
2022	16	220

5. The numbers of patients removed from outpatient or elective care waiting lists with a removal reason of death, for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Elective care and outpatients are acute classifications so are not relevant for our Trust; therefore we do not hold information for this part of your request.

In part 1, if these numbers are only available for patients who have not been identified as having learning disabilities, that is acceptable. The request is based on this announcement by the Department of Health and Social Care, and the 'Learning from Deaths Dashboard' template announced by NHS England.

In part 4, I recognise that it is not possible to determine the cause of death of the patient. That is not what I am requesting.

For all parts of this request, if the data to the end of 2022 is not available, then please include as much of the year as possible.

If the trust experienced any merger in the timeframes required, please include if possible the results for the separate defunct trusts before the merger, and then the results for the new trust.