

File reference	W18FOI167
Key words	Public Health Funerals
Date of release	30/07/2018
Attachments	No

Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

You asked

- 1. Please tell me how many public health funerals your NHS trust has provided in the financial years of: 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2017/2018**

Adult deaths

2015/2016 = 19

2016/2017 = 16

2017/2018 = 18

- 2. Please tell me the total cost of public health funerals your NHS trust spent in the financial years of: 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2017/2018**

2015/2016 = £19,550

2016/2017 = £23,850

2017/2018 = £22,855

- 3. What was the most expensive, and the cheapest, public health funeral this hospital trust arranged in the financial years of: 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2017/2018**

2015/2016 = £1,150

2016/2017 = £1,645

2017/2018 = £1,645

- 4. How many of the public health funerals given in the financial years of: 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2017/2018 were for a still-born baby?**

2015/2016 = Nine

2016/2017 = Five or fewer

2017/2018 = Five or fewer

- 5. How many times is an unmarked grave used?**

The Trust does not hold the information.

6. Please tell me how long a body was held in your hospital mortuary until the public health funeral was arranged.

For the periods 2015/16 and 2016/17 the Trust's paper based records are held in deep storage in another part of the country. The Trust would need to arrange for all records to be returned and then the relevant items would need to be extracted and collated. This would breach the appropriate limit of 18 hours. Additionally section 41.-(1) (a) and (b) – information held in confidence would also apply and prevent the disclosure. See legal notes.

2017/18: The average is 40 days. The longest wait was between 100 and 120 days. As above, the disclosure would breach section 41.-(1) (a) and (b) – information held in confidence. See legal notes.

Legal notes

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust is confirming in accordance with section 1 (a) of the Act that it holds the information requested and is supplying it in accordance with section 1(b) unless otherwise specified in the response.

Section 12.-(1) the appropriate limit as applies to Q.6.

The data requested would be held within individual records that are in deep storage. The Trust could not locate, extract and collate such information as requested within the limitations of the Act. It is therefore considered exempt from supply in accordance with section 12(1) of the Act – Request exceeds the appropriate limit by virtue of section 13.-(1)(a) – The Cost of Compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Section 41.(1) (a) and (b) applies – Information held in confidence

For question four and six

With regard to this part of your request I regret to inform you that University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust takes the view that this information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 41(1)(a) and (b) of the 2000 Act. The reason why the Trust takes this view is because it believes that the information contained in these questions is provided in confidence and would not be expected to be released to a third party without the consent of the individual/s concerned. That duty of confidence applies to deceased persons.

It should be noted that the use of Section 40 has been applied where numbers are five or fewer or refused. This avoids a breach of the first two Data Protection Act principles and the general right to object to processing for any living person biographically identifiable through the disclosure. This is in accordance with section 40.-(2)(a) and (b) by virtue of the first and second condition.

Attachments included: No