

Deaths Caused by Care (avoidable)

Reference Number: F4777
Date of Response: 29/09/2022

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response, in **blue bold text** below:

Royal Devon's Eastern area response

1) Please tell me in the reporting period 2021/22 the number of deaths that occurred at your Trust for which a case record review or investigation has been carried out which the provider judges as a result of the review or investigation were more likely than not to have been due to problems in the care provided to the patient, with an explanation of the methods used to assess this.

NOTE: By 'more likely than not' caused by care, I mean given a score of 3 (probably avoidable), 2 (strong evidence of avoidability) or 1 (definitely avoidable) on the inpatient structured judgement reviews (SJR), as assessed using the Royal College of Physicians avoidability of death criteria. If you do not use this system, please ignore this note.

2) Please provide me with a brief overview of the FIRST FIVE incidents in 2021/22 identified in question 3 (i.e. cases of deaths that were more likely than not caused by problems in care), withholding any identifying information that would run into a Section 40 exemption.

3) Finally, can you please summarise what the Trust learnt and what actions have been taken as a result of the aforementioned cases/investigations.

The Trust does not record the information requested in this Freedom Of Information. The Trust has adopted the Royal College of Physicians' National Mortality Case Record Review Programme methodology known as the 'Structured Judgement Review'.

The Royal College of Physicians has stated that "SJR methodology does not allow the calculation of whether a death has a greater than 50% probability of being avoidable" and, further, that "The NMCRR programme, supported by the RCP, does not endorse the comparison of data from the SJR between trusts."