

Deaths whilst on NHS Wait List

Reference Number: RDF2137-23

Date of Response: 09/01/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like the following information please.

- 1. The number of patients who have died while on your NHS waiting list and therefore have been removed from that list due to their death or status as being deceased.*

I would like this complete data broken down into the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and the year 2023 to date (December).

If possible, I would also like a breakdown of age for every patient who died while on your NHS waiting list please.

Answer: Please see the table's overleaf.

- The data includes the total number of patients who have died whilst on any of our waiting lists, including new and follow-up out-patient appointments, procedural and surgical.
- The Trust do not know the cause of death for these patients, and it may be unrelated to the condition for which they were on the waiting list.
- Clinicians regularly review our waiting lists to assess clinical priority and ensure patients are seen in as timely way as possible based on their clinical needs.

In accordance with Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients and breach Caldicott principles. In these cases ≤ 5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed.

This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

| <i>Royal Devon</i> | <i>2018</i> | <i>2019</i> | <i>2020</i> | <i>2021</i> | <i>2022</i> | <i>2023 (up to 19/12/2023)</i> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| No. patients who have died while on your NHS waiting list | 309 | 302 | 522 | 1,378 | 1,625 | 1,607 |

| <i>Age in years</i> | <i>No. of Patients</i> |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 0 - 10 | 12 |
| 11 - 20 | ≤5 |
| 21 - 30 | 25 |
| 31 - 40 | 63 |
| 41 - 50 | 131 |
| 51 - 60 | 337 |
| 61 - 70 | 705 |
| 71 - 80 | 1,767 |
| 81 - 90 | 1,945 |
| 91 - 100 | 724 |
| 101 - 110 | 29 |