

Title

FGM - Female Genital Mutilation

Reference Number: RDF2313-24

Date of Response: 21/02/24

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).

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information from your Trust – acute, mental health, or otherwise.

For each of these 3 questions and the sub-sections, could you provide the data in calendar year and could you split the data by month and year (e.g., January 2014, February 2014).

To stress, my questions require answers covering all ages.

- How many patients have come into your care with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) that was noticed and/or attended to, between January 2014-February 2024 calendar years?*

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of FGM</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>*≤5</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>*≤5</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>*≤5</i>
<i>2019</i>	<i>*≤5</i>
<i>2020</i>	<i>*≤5</i>
<i>2021</i>	<i>*≤5</i>
<i>2022</i>	<i>*≤5</i>
<i>2023</i>	<i>*≤5</i>
<i>2024</i>	<i>0</i>

*≤5 - Section 40 (2).

Please note that in accordance with Section 40 (2) where activity is 5 or less than 5, the Trust is unable to provide the exact information. In these cases, ≤5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed. We consider the data exempt on the following grounds:

The Trust considers that disclosure of the information by month and where the activity is 5 or less than 5 risks identifying individuals. The reason for this is that the number of patients for which this applies is very low. This and the fact that the data requested relates to the Royal Devon Healthcare NHS Trust only and therefore relates to patients treated in a specific location (rather than covering a larger geographical area), increases the risk of identification or self-identification.

The Trust's view is that s.40(2) is applicable because disclosure of information which could lead to a patient being identified would be a breach of the patient's rights under the Data Protection Act Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the GDPR, namely Principle 1.

1 (a) Please specify if the data is relating to a physical or mental health concern and please make sure to list the physical and mental health concerns separately.

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information in a reportable format, the Trust has no obligation to 'create' information. To identify if the Trust may or may not hold the data requested would require the manual review, extraction, and manipulation of information from patient records, it is not expected and inappropriate for the Trust to review individual patient records to obtain/produce the information. In this instance the FOI question/s are exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (patient personal data).

2. Between January 2014 to February 2024: how much has the trust spent (or how much has it cost) for the following things relating to FGM, where relevant:

2a) corrective FGM (whatever actions need to be taken to correct or improve the damage caused by FGM)

2b) surgery

2c) procedures (non-surgical)

2d) appointments for mental health – counselling, therapy, group therapy etc. This includes mental health trusts dealing with any form of secondary treatment for FGM as I appreciate acute trusts would look after primary physical care.

2e) Please specify if the data is relating to a physical or mental health concern and please make sure to list the physical and mental health concerns separately.

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information in a reportable format, the Trust has no obligation to 'create' information. To identify if the Trust may or may not hold the data requested would require the manual review, extraction, and manipulation of information from patient records, it is not expected and inappropriate for the Trust to review individual patient records to obtain/produce the information. In this instance the FOI question/s are exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (patient personal data).

3. How many FGM-related deaths has your trust seen between January 2014-February 2024? Please specify how if FGM was a primary or secondary cause of death. Answer – Nil.