

## FGM in England

---

Reference Number: RDF2221-24

Date of Response: 06/02/24

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

*Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,*

*Please provide the following for the last five years, from January 1st 2019 until December 31st 2023.*

*Please break each of the following down by year (i.e. January 1st 2023 to December 31st 2023; January 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022, etc), and only include each case once (i.e. not the number of occasions one individual attempts to access services):*

- 1. How many cases or suspected cases of FGM have been identified (I refer in my request to female genital mutilation or cutting)?*
- 2. How many of these cases were identified of children under 18?*
- 3. Of the cases identified in children under 18, how many cases were referred to the police?*
- 4. Of all the cases recorded, how many cases were referred to the police?*
- 5. Of the cases identified, how many individuals requested reconstructive surgery via the NHS? Please include the type of reconstructive surgery.*
- 6. How many of these individuals underwent reconstructive surgery via the NHS? Please include the type of reconstructive surgery.*
- 7. Where this data is recorded, please provide the number of individuals who underwent reconstructive surgery out of the NHS.*
- 8. How many of the people identified as victims of, or likely victims of, FGM were referred to psychological or mental health support services?  
How many people were referred to specialist FGM support clinics?*

Answer: Please see the table below and as requested in the CSV file attached. 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  $\leq 5$  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.

\* 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 would be exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (patient personal data).

Year	No. of FGM cases identified	Cases under 18	Cases under 18 referred to police	All cases referred to police	No. of reconstructive surgery requests via NHS		No. of surgeries completed within NHS		No. of surgeries completed outside of NHS		No. referred to psychological or mental health support	No. referred to specialist FGM support services
					Defibulation	Clitoral reconstruction	Defibulation	Clitoral reconstruction	Defibulation	Clitoral Reconstruction		
2019	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2020	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2021	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2022	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2023	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	≤15	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Year	No. of FGM cases identified	Cases under 18	Cases under 18 referred to police	All cases referred to police	No. of reconstructive surgery requests via NHS		No. of surgeries completed within NHS		No. of surgeries completed outside of NHS		No. referred to psychological or mental health support	No. referred to specialist FGM support services
					Defibulation	Clitoral reconstruction	Defibulation	Clitoral reconstruction	Defibulation	Clitoral Reconstruction		
2019	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2020	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2021	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2022	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2023	≤5	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	≤15	Nil	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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.

\* 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 would be exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (patient personal data).