

16 February 2021

Freedom of Information
Barts Health NHS Trust
Information Governance (FOI)
Shape Your Story
Floor 9, 20 Churchill Place
London, E14 5HJ

Dear Lisa Austen

Your Request for Information: FOI-0055-21

Thank you for your request for information which has been processed under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

Your request and the response are below:

Your request

From 19th March 2020 to 20th January 2021, if you could supply data by week/month on,

1. How many recorded deaths, within 60 days of a Negative covid test result?
2. How many recorded deaths, within 60 days of a positive covid test result ?
3. How many of point 1, had underlying health conditions?
4. How many of point 1, Didnt have any underlying health conditions?
5. How many in point 2, Had underlying health conditions?
6. How many in point 2, Didnt have any underlying health conditions?
7. How many patients were admitted to ICU that were not admitted with covid related problems?
8. How many patients were admitted to ICU, With covid related problems?
9. How many covid positive patients, have been discharged from hospital, fully recovered?
10. How many patients have been diagnosed, covid positive? How many survived?
11. How many patients died 'from' covid?
12. How many patients died 'with' covid?



13. What cycle threshold, do you run the PCR test at?

Our response

The Trust holds information relevant to your request, however, we consider the information exempt in accordance with section 12 of the FOI Act. Under section 12, we are not required to provide information where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit, namely £450 or 18 hours of staff time. The Trust considers that fulfilling the full request would exceed the cost limit and we therefore consider the information exempt.

Covid deaths and underlying health conditions

The Trust holds medical certificates of death for most of our patients who have sadly died with Covid-19 (some yet to be determined by the coroner). The certificates are held in paper and scanned format. To provide the data you have requested, the Trust would have to review each of the certificates we hold where Covid-19 is mentioned to extract the data requested. Due to the high number of reported Covid-19 deaths for the period requested (which is more than one thousand)¹, the Trust considers that this would exceed the cost of compliance limit.

For context, Barts Health NHS Trust is one of the largest NHS Trusts in the country and we serve a population of 2.5 million people in East London and beyond.

Unfortunately, due to the way that the information is held, we are unable to provide advice on how to reduce the scope of the request to fall within the cost limit. In addition, our services are currently under intense pressure due to the current wave of the pandemic and the resulting high volume of deaths.

We have noted that the Office of National Statistics have produced some data on the topic² and suggest you direct your enquiry to them:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/makingarequest>

Deaths 'from' Covid and 'with' Covid'

The Trust produce and publish statistics of Covid-19 deaths according to Government metrics³. This data can be found on the Trust's and NHS England's websites, see below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>
<https://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/news>

¹ Data available via NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

²

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/deathsin2020wheretheonlycauseofdeath>

³ <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/about-data#daily-and-cumulative-deaths-within-28-days-of-a-positive-test> , <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

The Trust considers this information already reasonably accessible to you and therefore exempt from disclosure under FOI in accordance with section 21 of the Act.

The Trust does not produce statistics which allows us to answer the question whether Covid-19 was the sole cause of death. In our view, this would require a medical opinion for each case. Under the FOI Act, only information which has been recorded is eligible for disclosure. Therefore, the Trust does not hold this information.

Covid patients discharged fully recovered

It is not clear what 'fully recovered' means. Patients may be discharged from the Trust when they no longer need acute care, but may be transferred to other care providers or require time to recover at home. The Trust does not hold statistics on whether the patient is 'fully recovered' as there is no such definition. Therefore, this information is not held.

Advice and assistance

The Trust would be willing to reconsider the parts of your request which related to ICU admission of Covid positive and Covid negative patients and PCR testing if you wish to make a new request.

The information we have provided is the copyright of Barts Health NHS Trust (unless stated otherwise). You may re-use the information in accordance with the Open Government Licence:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

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If you are dissatisfied with how your request has been handled, please contact the FOI Team to see if your concerns can be addressed informally.

Alternatively, you can request a formal internal review of our response. Please state that you are requesting an internal review and address your complaint in writing to:

Head of Information Governance
& Trust Data Protection Officer
Barts Health NHS Trust
Email: foi.bartshealth@nhs.net

Postal address:
Head of Information Governance
& Trust Data Protection Officer
Barts Health NHS Trust
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Barts Health
NHS Trust

If, after we have addressed your complaint, you remain dissatisfied with how we have responded, you are entitled to appeal to the Information Commissioner (Tel: 01625 545 745). Details are shown at www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
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Website: www.bartshealth.nhs.uk
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