



Home Office

Detention and Escorting  
Services  
Immigration Enforcement  
3rd Floor Apollo House  
36 Wellesley Rd  
CR9 3RR

By email:

[request-681483f9adbba2@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-681483f9adbba2@whatdotheyknow.com)

15 September 2020

Dear Ms Esslemont,

REF: FOI 60222

Thank you for your email dated 03 September 2020 requesting information on deaths and self harm incidents in immigration removal centres (IRC). Your request has been handled as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your full request can be found in **Annex A**.

Under Section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the designated cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The reasons for the engagement of the Section 12 exemption is explained as follows. To collate the range of information you have requested would exceed the £600 limit and we are therefore unable to comply with your request. To provide you with some context regarding the scale of your information request it may be helpful to explain that each individual self harm record would need to be examined and scrutinised in order to ascertain if there had been a suicide attempt.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

Section 16 of the Act states that we must include advice, wherever possible, on how you might refine the request to bring it under the limit. For example, by reducing the time period requested to a shorter period, reduces the amount of information that would need to be scrutinised.

Even if a new request were to fall below the £600 limit, the information you request might be withheld under the terms of a number of substantive exemptions contained in part II of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. These exemptions could also make it necessary for us to

extend the period of responding beyond the usual 20 working day target if they involve having to consider the public interest balancing test.

Please note that breaking a request down into a series of similar smaller requests may still be declined if the total cost exceeds £600.

You may find it useful to know that the data on the number of deaths of people detained under immigration powers in each year are published at the following link (Detention, table 05):  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-statistics-data-tables-year-ending-june-2020#detention>

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to [foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference 60222. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be re-assessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

**Detention and Escorting Services**  
Immigration Enforcement  
Home Office

## **Annex A**

Please provide the number of times the below outcomes - taking place within immigration detention - were recorded between 1 April 2019 and 1 April 2020. Please disaggregate by outcome 'type':

- Recorded deaths in detention
- Number of detainees held, who have made 'threat of self harm'
- Number of detainees held, who have made a known suicide attemptI understand that figures may be double-counted, which is why this request is for the number of logged 'incidents' rather than individuals.

Please note that the data should account for the number of times these outcomes have occurred during the outlined period. For the purpose of this request, please note that 'immigration detention' refers to people being held under Immigration Powers, including those in Immigration Removal Centres, Short-Term Holding Facilities and HMPs as per previous responses to such requests