

25th February 2019

Hugh McCloy
[request-547761-de044b3c@whatdotheyknow.com]

Our ref.: FOI/19/040

Dear Mr McCloy

RE: Freedom of Information (FOI) request – Deaths in A & E

We refer to your Freedom of Information request which was received by the Western Health and Social Care Trust on 28th January 2019. Please see below a Trust response to your request.

For the past 5 years the amount of deaths that have occurred in the A&E units.

I request that this information be placed on a spread-sheet under the following headings:

- 1. Date**
- 2. Unit Name**
- 3. Gender of Patient**
- 4. Age of Patient**
- 5. How long was the patient in the A&E before the death occurred. Was the death investigated?**

If the death was investigated please provide along with this request a copy of the investigation

We have discussed your request with relevant staff and would advise that the specific information you have requested is not available from our Accident & Emergency (A&E) systems. To provide accurate information from the A&E systems would also involve a manual search which would be time consuming.

However we can provide information from the Mortuary system, but would stress that this is categorized as 'A&E deaths' rather than 'deaths in A&E departments'. This data will include deaths en-route to A&E which would not be registered on the A&E system and would not be considered 'deaths in A&E'.

Please see below 2 tables showing the number of 'A&E deaths' in the Western Trust from 2014 to 2018, as recorded on the mortuary system. This is shown for Altnagelvin Hospital and Erne Hospital / South West Acute Hospital (NB. Erne closed and SWAH opened in June 2012). The data is broken down into male and female patients.

The Trust is unable to provide ages of individual patients as this would require a manual exercise and to complete this would take the request outside the Appropriate Fees Limit (Appropriate Limits and Fees Regulations 2004). Section 12 of the FOI Act provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. However an 'age range' is provided in each category.

As this information was sourced from the mortuary system and includes deaths en-route to A&E, we are unable to provide information on 'how long the patient was in the A&E before the death occurred'

Regarding question 5 of your request and investigation of deaths, we have been advised that there would not be an easy way to extract information regarding the length of time in A & E before death or details of investigations and outcomes as some of the recorded deaths account for patients who died en route to ED and were therefore not registered in A & E.

Altnagelvin Hospital	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MALE	28	21	26	23	30
AGE RANGE	18YRS - 94 YRS	18YRS - 91 YRS	15month -93 YRS	06YRS - 88 YRS	16 YR - 91YRS
FEMALE	18	15	12	21	15
AGE RANGE	18 YRS -93 YRS	13YRS - 95 YRS	27YRS - 91 YRS	20YRS - 88 YRS	31 YRS - 91 YRS

Erne/South West Acute Hospital	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MALE	12	12	14	11	4
AGE RANGE	17YRS - 85 YRS	15YRS - 82 YRS	17YRS - 96 YRS	22YRS - 85 YRS	30YRS - 70 YRS
FEMALE	10	9	8	12	7
AGE RANGE	19YRS - 95 YRS	19YRS - 85 YRS	22YRS - 90 YRS	21YRS - 85 YRS	30YRS - 70YRS

We hope you find this response helpful. Please contact us at the below address if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

(Not signed – issued by email)

**Freedom of Information Office
Western Health and Social Care Trust**

Freedom of Information: If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the FOI Office, Lime Villa, Gransha Park, Clooney Road, Londonderry, BT47 6WJ (foi.request@westerntrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, usually within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.