



By email

request-713490-6db53141@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 17/12/kl/2176

19 January 2021

Dear Chris Suich,

Re: Freedom of Information request - How many people and staff have contracted CV19 in carehome in 'the Elms- Oakwood' in Louth (district East Lindsey)

Thank you for your request received on 17 December 2020 addressed to Public Health England (PHE). In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that PHE does not hold the information you have specified.

I will address your questions in the order raised.

Louth, East Lindsey District. The Elms:

1) How many currently have Covid 19 in this home?

PHE does not hold the information at the level specified in your request.

Under section 16, a public authority has a duty to provide and advice. Accordingly, you may wish to contact the local council for further information.

Furthermore, you may be interested in the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK Dashboard (COVID-19 dashboard). You can filter the number of cases to the local authority level of East Lindsey. You can access this data at:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases>

2) Has public health sent letters of advice to this home after end of nov 2020?

PHE can confirm that it does not hold the information as requested. PHE has not sent any letters directly to the care home.

3) Please can you tell me why this home has a blanket ban on visits and stating The Health Protection Team and government guidance dec 1 2020? The guidance does not say window visits are banned. How can the virus jump through a window.? Has public health told the home that they cannot have visits of any kind even when a window visit would not mean going inside any building whatsoever.

PHE can confirm that it does not hold the information as specified in your request.

Each care home is responsible for setting the visiting policy in that home. The guidance set out measures that can be put in place to provide COVID-19 secure opportunities for visiting arrangements. However, the guidance also recognises that the providers themselves are best placed to decide how such visits happen in practice, considering the needs and wellbeing of individual residents, and the given layout and facilities of the care home. For further information on the advice for providers when establishing their visiting policies, please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

Under section 16, a public authority has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Accordingly, you may wish to contact the individual care home for further information on the care home's visiting policy or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), who developed the guidance on visiting arrangements in care homes.

4) Lateral flow tests are there but they haven't had training, haven't had risk assessment training and further protocols. If someone is 'end of life ' 6-12 months they still are not allowed visits -exceptional circumstances is when someone is in last 48 hours. is that humane?

This is not a valid FOI request. The FOI Act does not oblige public authorities to generate new information to answer questions, including providing explanations or giving opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to me in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing foi@phe.gov.uk.

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by calling the ICO's helpline on 0303 123 1113, visiting the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk or writing to the ICO at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely
FOI Team