

Ref: FOI/00011/CCSC  
11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

George Julian  
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Bevan House  
Barony Court  
Nantwich  
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CW5 5RD

Website: [www.southcheshireccg.nhs.uk](http://www.southcheshireccg.nhs.uk)

**Please direct any queries to:**  
Chris Clegg, Governance Officer  
Tel: 01625 663828  
Email: [scccg.foirequests@nhs.net](mailto:scccg.foirequests@nhs.net)

Dear George Julian,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Investigations into the deaths of patients with a learning disability**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

**You asked:**

**Please would you provide the following information for your CCG:**

- 1. The number of deaths of patients with a learning disability that occurred in the last three years (by years defined as 1/4/16 - 31/3/17, 1/4/17 - 31/3/18, 1/4/18 to present).**

Our response:

1. NHS South Cheshire CCG does not hold the total number of deaths of NHS South Cheshire CCG patients with a learning disability that occurred in the last three years. While NHS South Cheshire CCG partakes in the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) programme delivered by the University of Bristol, this only applies to deaths which are reported to the central LeDeR programme team. The number of LeDeR reviews for NHS South Cheshire CCG will therefore not reflect the total number of deaths of patients with a learning disability. Further information about the LeDeR programme is available at the following link:  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/leder/about/>

You may wish to redirect your enquiry to Cheshire East Council, who maintain the register of deaths that occur in its districts. You can contact Cheshire East Council on: [foi@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:foi@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

In addition, our main local acute and mental healthcare providers may also hold information from their mortality review processes about the number of its service



users with a learning disability who have died in the last three years. I provide below their contact details for your reference:

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Acute Provider):

[foi.foi@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.foi@mcht.nhs.uk)

Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health Trust):

[FOI@cwp.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@cwp.nhs.uk)

**You asked:**

**2. The number of independent investigations into the deaths of patients with a learning disability that you have commissioned in the last three years (defined as above)**

**Our response:**

2. NHS South Cheshire CCG has not commissioned any independent investigations into deaths of patients with a learning disability.

As set out in Question 1, NHS South Cheshire CCG partakes in the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) programme delivered by the University of Bristol. This is not however an independent investigation as it involves gathering information from the relevant health and social care professionals involved in that person's care.

Similarly NHS South Cheshire CCG quality assures Serious Incident reports completed by our providers into unexpected deaths of patients in receipt of NHS-funded care. However, these are also not independent investigations, as they are investigated by the relevant healthcare providers.

Our Designated Safeguarding Professionals also support reviews undertaken by the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and Local Adult Safeguarding Boards but these are not independent investigations.

**You asked:**

**3a. The number of deaths of patients with a learning disability that have resulted in an inquest in the last three years (defined as above)**

**3b. Of those inquests the number that were an Article 2 inquest**

**Our response:**

3 a-b. NHS South Cheshire CCG does not hold information on the number of deaths of patients with a learning disability that have resulted in an Inquest nor how many of these were an Article 2 Inquest.

You may wish to redirect this request to the H M Coroner for Cheshire who is responsible for holding Inquests into deaths that occur in the area. You can contact the H M Coroner for Cheshire on [coronersadminteam@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:coronersadminteam@warrington.gov.uk)

If you have any queries or concerns, wish to request a review of our response or are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to this Freedom of Information request, please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Requests team; details provided at the top of this letter.

If you request a review of our response and are not content with the subsequent outcome, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Freedom of Information complaints procedure provided by NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

**The Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire**  
**SK9 5AF**

Yours sincerely



**Clare Watson**  
Chief Officer  
NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

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