

Ref: FOI/00010/CCVR  
11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

George Julian  
[request-562791-54b70e41@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-562791-54b70e41@whatdotheyknow.com)

Bevan House  
Barony Court  
Nantwich  
Cheshire  
CW5 5RD

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

**Please direct any queries to:**  
Chris Clegg, Governance Officer  
Tel: 01625 663828  
Email: [vrccg.foirequests@nhs.net](mailto:vrccg.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 Vale Royal 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 Vale Royal CCG does not hold the total number of deaths of NHS Vale Royal CCG patients with a learning disability that occurred in the last three years. While NHS Vale Royal 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 Vale Royal 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 West and Chester Council, who maintain the register of deaths that occur in its districts. You can contact Cheshire West and Chester Council on: [foi@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:foi@cheshirewestandchester.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 Vale Royal CCG has not commissioned any independent investigations into death of patients with a learning disability.

As set out in Question 1, NHS Vale Royal 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 Vale Royal 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 Vale Royal 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 Vale Royal 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 Vale Royal Clinical Commissioning Group

#### **Re- Use of Information**

Most of the information that we provide in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by NHS Vale Royal CCG. The copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner. Therefore, you must ensure that you gain our permission before reproducing any information. You may need a licence from us for this.