

Our Ref: SPFT FOI 20/21-273

Date: 13 January 2021

Charlotte Threipland and Aaron Walawalkar

By email: request-714954-dc6c81fb@whatdotheyknow.com

Trust Headquarters

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[Publication Scheme](#)

Dear Charlotte and Aaron

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I refer to your email of **31 December 2020** in which you requested information under the Freedom of Information Act from Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Your request

You made the following request:

Question 1:

The number of new detentions* under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983 from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020. Please provide a monthly breakdown of these figures.

Question 2:

A breakdown of these above monthly figures by age, gender and ethnic background. If possible, please use the following categories:

- For ethnicity: 'Asian or Asian British' / 'Black or Black British' / 'Mixed' / 'Not Known/Recorded' / 'Not stated' / 'Other group' / 'White'
- For Age: 'Under-18' / '18-25' / '26-35' / '36-45' / '46-55' / '56-64' / '65+'
- For Gender: 'Male' / 'Female' / 'Not Known/Recorded' / 'Not stated' / 'Other group'

*Please note regarding (1) above: we are interested in the number of 'new detentions' starting within each month, rather than the total number of 'open detentions' counted within each month. I understand that, as detentions can span a number of months, providing open detentions in the period would be double-counting where detentions span across multiple months. Please could you confirm that you are providing data for new detentions as opposed to open detentions.

Decision

Sussex Partnership holds the information that you have requested and has decided to release it as stated below:

Chair: Peter Molyneux

Chief Executive: Samantha Allen

Head office: Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Swandean, Arundel Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3EP

www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

A teaching trust of Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Answers 1 & 2:

Please see attached document.

* While we appreciate that there is likely to be public interest in this information, due to the very small numbers involved and the sensitive nature of the information you are seeking, we are unable to disclose any further details relevant to your request through the Freedom of Information process. The Trust has a duty to safeguard the confidentiality of its patients under Data Protection legislation. Information released under the FOIA is essentially 'released to the wider world', therefore we must take a cautious approach regarding the disclosure of information of this nature

This data has been anonymised in line with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance as it relates to the disclosure of information relevant to a small number of natural, living people. This guidance recommends that information relevant to 5 or fewer people should be anonymised to ensure identification is not possible.

Therefore, where the number of patients relevant to your request is equal to or less than 5, "<5" has been indicated. Although disclosure of the actual numbers alone may not identify people, guidance from the ICO suggests that the 'controller' (i.e. the Trust in this case) must take into consideration whether people can be identified by combining information disclosed under the FOIA with other information already in the public domain – this is known as the 'mosaic effect'.

Review rights

If you consider that your request for information has not been properly handled or if you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, we can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request via our Freedom of Information Officer at the email address stated above.

If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within Sussex Partnership of the issue or the decision. A senior staff member of Sussex Partnership, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to:

FOI Request Reviews, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Trust HQ, Arundel Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3EP or by email to FOI@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

I do hope you find the information provided helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ian Genner', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ian Genner

Freedom of Information Officer

On behalf of the Corporate Governance Team