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Our Ref: FOI 2010.115

16 June 2010

Mr Paul Ogden
request-35715-08b99da4@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Ogden

Ref: Request for information under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on 21 May 2010. The Trust's response is as follows:

I am undertaking a study on the numbers of Public Health/Welfare Funerals undertaken by NHS Trusts. I would appreciate it if you would provide answers to the following FOI request.

Question 1: The total number of public health funerals (where the deceased has no relatives or there is no one else willing to pay) that your Trust has undertaken for the financial years between 2007 and 2010

Answer 1: [Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has undertaken 32 hospital funerals for the financial years between 2007 and 2010.](#)

Question 2: The number of public health funerals that your Trust has undertaken by gender for the past 3 financial years

Answer 2: [The Trust has undertaken funeral for 20 males and 12 Females for the past 3 financial years.](#)

Question 3: The number of public health funerals that your authority has undertaken by age for the past 3 financial years

Answer 3: The Trust is unable to provide this information as the Trust does not record this level of detail.

Question 4: Since April 2009, how many cases have there been where family and friends refuse to finance or make arrangements for their relatives funeral?

Answer 4: The Trust has had 13 such cases since April 2009.

Question 5: How much have the burials/cremations cost the trust broken down by year for the last three financial years?

Answer 5:

Year	Cost
2007/208	£11.7k
2008/2009	£8.5k
2009/2010	£15.7k

Question 6: How much does your trust typically (average cost) pay for a Public Health Funeral?

Answer 6: The average cost of a public heath funeral to the Trust is £822.75.

Question 7: What does your Trust provide at a Public Health Funeral?

Answer 7: The Trust provides a cremation at a Public Health Funeral

Question 8: What relationship do you have with your local council(s) regarding funerals of this nature?

Answer 8: The Freedom of Information Act relates to information that the Trust holds, and the provision for this to be made public. The Act does not require the Trust to provide opinions or assessment. It would be inappropriate to speculate on the relationship with the local council regarding funerals of this nature. In effect, the Trust does not hold any information on this issue and so has nothing to disclose under FOI.

We provide information in accordance with our statutory obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust asks not to receive unsolicited marketing communications.

Provision of this information does not constitute permission for its commercial re-use in the terms of the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, please write to the Chief Executive Christine Green at the above address.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of this request, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

<http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

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