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14th June 2010

Dear Paul

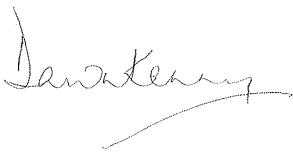
Re: Freedom of Information request – ref: 9410 public health funerals

This letter confirms receipt of your request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am pleased to attach our response to your email received on 21st May.

Should you have any reservations about how your request was handled or if you feel the information supplied is inadequate, you will have access to our complaints system which will be sent to you if necessary.

Kind Regards



Dawn Kenny
Head of Corporate Affairs

9410

Public Health Funerals

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

2009/10	73
2008/9	65
2007/8	no figures available

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

2009/10	8 male, 5 female, 60 infants
2008/9	7 male 2 female, 56 infants
2007/8	no figures available

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

2009/10	Infants under 28 days	60
	Adults age 54 – 90	13
2008/9	Infants under 28 days	56
	Adults age 36 – 81	9
2007/8	No figures available	

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

No detail available to date

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

2007/2008	£22,796.29
2008/2009	£20,638.50
2009/2010	£35,853.00
Total	£79,287.79

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

Based on 09/10 total value divided by total funerals = average of £491 per funeral

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

The arrangements made by the hospital provide for either a burial or cremation with the provision of hearse and a service by the Hospital Chaplain.

In the case of the infants the arrangements are made in conjunction with the parents and in exceptional circumstance a car will be provided in addition to the hearse and they are offered the choice of cemetery and either burial or cremation

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

Hospital are responsible for the cost of funerals where no relatives are known and the patients die in the hospital, Environmental Services are responsible for deaths in the Community.