



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

E A Lee

By email to: request-1148880-94f392ab@whatdotheyknow.com

16 August 2024

Dear E A Lee,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1519668

Thank you for your request dated 22 July to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC does not hold the information you have requested. However, you may wish to contact NHS England (NHSE) which may hold information relevant to your request.

NHSE can be contacted at: england.contactus@nhs.net.

Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line of any FOI request.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of this request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be sent to freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

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

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex

-----Original Message-----

From: E A Lee <request-1148880-94f392ab@whatdotheyknow.com>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 7:22 PM

To: FreedomofInformation <freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk>

Subject: Freedom of Information request - Review of suicides and gender dysphoria at the Tavistock: disambiguating dates and figures

Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Please acknowledge this request.

You published "Review of suicides and gender dysphoria at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust: independent report" on 19 July 2024.

In the report Professor Appleby wrote, "In this period of 6 years the data show a total of 12 suicides: 6 in the under 18s, 6 in those 18 and above. In the 3 years leading up to 2020-21, there were 5 suicides, compared to 7 in the 3 years after. This is essentially no difference, taking account of expected fluctuations in small numbers, and would not reach statistical significance. In the under 18s specifically, there were 3 suicides before and 3 after 2020-21."

And he wrote, "the figures are for 'NHS years', April to March, so the timing of the High Court judgment does not fall neatly between years."

In relation to his summary, please let me know:

1. Out of the 12 total suicides, how many occurred before April 2020?
2. Out of the 12 total suicides, how many occurred on or after April 2020?
3. Out of the 6 suicides involving individuals under 18, how many occurred before April 2020?
4. Out of the 6 suicides involving individuals under 18, how many occurred on or after April 2020?
5. Is the numeric answer to (3) greater than the answer to (4)?

You are reminded that, according to ICO guidance and case laws, there is an overriding public interest in verifying or refuting misleading statistical claims. You must consider the public interest in relation to each question individually, in particular question (5). I would be grateful if you could disprove my plausible suspicion as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

E A Lee
