

Date: **16 January 2020**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5603**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your following request for information:

**Your Request**

*Please can you supply me with a list of every patient death by sepsis over the last 10 calendar years (removing any person information that might identify the patient if necessary to comply with data protection laws). If possible, this should include any internal investigation carried out by the trust, or any notes that give information on what treatment the patient was given before they died.*

**Our Request for Clarification**

We requested clarification for you to specify a start and end date for the time of period of 10 calendar years?

**Your Response to Our Request for Clarification**

*You respond and clarified the start date is from 1 January 2010 and end date is the year to date.*

**Our Response**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') does not centrally record the information you have requested. We have contacted the Mortality Review Group (MRG) to see whether they record information in the format of deaths of patients by sepsis.

The MRG was established in 2012 to review the deaths of inpatients at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). The purpose of the MRG is to provide a Trust level overview of all deaths to identify any learning points, themes and risks and take action as appropriate to address any risks. This process is linked with local case reviews undertaken by specialty teams and provides an additional oversight of inpatient deaths in the Trust. The MRG do not centrally record information in the format you have specified; nor do their records go back to 2010 to enable them to accurately identify 'deaths by sepsis' covering the time period from 1 January 2010 to the present time (which is up to the date your request for information was received on 16/12/2019).

We continued to carry out further enquiries with other teams to see whether a local search of their systems would be able to identify and locate any information relating to deaths by sepsis. We have been unable to identify and locate any information matching your specific request from all the searches we have carried out by several members of staff across the Trust. The amount of work and time we have spent searching for the information has already exceeded the 18 hour cost limit for processing a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which equates to one member of staff to carry out a search to identify, locate and extract information.

The Trust cannot ascertain what information is held to enable us to accurately answer your request for information. We would have to manually search through the medical records of all GOSH inpatients, which died in that period and review whether “sepsis” or synonymous terms were listed on the death certificate. A death certificate is not centrally recorded information.

We have estimated that 100 x medical records per calendar year would need to be searched, which means a total of 1000 records would have to be searched covering the time period requested. Even to search a minimum of 100 records is estimated to exceed the 18 hours to process the information. We have therefore calculated the time required to search the total number of records would approximately take 170 hours to process your request for information. Your request is therefore exempt under Section 12 (Cost Limit) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows the Trust to refuse a request where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for Section 12 purposes is defined by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 - SI 2004 No. 3244 (‘Fees Regulation’).

Under regulation 3 of the Fees Regulation the appropriate cost limit for the Trust is £450. The Fees Regulation also states that all authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded, if it would require more than 18 hours’ work for the Trust to carry out the following activities in complying with the request:

- determining whether the information is held
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

Please note:

The information we have provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held on the date your request was received by the Trust.

We hope the information provided is sufficient and helpful in answering your questions or any issues or concerns. Should you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any related correspondence.

Re-use of information

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Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information team**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

Email: [foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk)

**[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]**

### **Your Rights**

Should you have any questions relating to the response you have received to your request for information, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team. Alternatively, you are entitled to make a request for an internal review within two months from the date of receiving our final response to your original request. You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety team  
Great Ormond Street Hospital  
LONDON  
WC1N 3JH

If, however, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review then you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner as the final stage of the FOI process. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Fax: 01625 524510