

09 April 2018

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██████████  
**By email**  
████████████████████

Dear ██████████,

### **Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”)**

We refer to your email of 20 March 2018 in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement. Since 1 April 2016, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority have been operating as an integrated organisation known as NHS Improvement. For the purposes of this decision, NHS Improvement means Monitor and the TDA.

### **Your request**

You made the following request:

*“I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000):*

- a) *The total number of avoidable deaths recorded by each NHS Trust or Welsh Health Board in England and Wales in the calendar year 2017. If data is not available for trusts/health boards individually, please supply the data as a total for all trusts and health boards for the calendar year 2017.*
- b) *The total number of avoidable deaths recorded by each NHS Trust or Welsh Health Board in England and Wales in the calendar year 2016. If data is not available for trusts/health boards individually, please supply the data as a total for all trusts and health boards for the calendar year 2016.*

*If data is available for only a) OR b) above, please supply the data that is available and which can be supplied, specifying exactly that data which is not available and which is not being supplied.*

*If data is available only for NHS trusts in England, please supply the data that is available (by individual Trust), specifying exactly that data which is not available and which is not being supplied.*

*Where the above requested data is supplied in whole or in part, please specify whether it can be assumed that a Trust or Welsh Health Board not listed has not recorded any avoidable deaths during the specified period.*

*If the requested information is already publicly available (with data set out by individual Trust or Health Board) due to 1) such a request for information already being made under the Freedom of Information Act and the response being published publicly, or 2) the data already being made publicly available, please provide a working hyperlink to where the response [in the case of 1), also supplying the reference number of the previous FOI request] or data [in the case of 2)] is available and accessible.*

*Where data relating to avoidable deaths is publicly available for all trusts and Welsh health boards, but not individually, this FOI request is requesting this data by individual Trust/Welsh Health Board.”*

## **Decision**

NHS Improvement does not hold the information requested.

You may find it useful to send your request to the trusts directly. A list of NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts can be found on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories/pages/nhstrustlisting.aspx>

By way of background, the information we hold would be extracted from the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS). The primary purpose of the NRLS is to enable learning from patient safety incidents occurring in the NHS. The NRLS was established in late 2003 as a largely voluntary scheme for reporting patient safety incidents, and therefore it does not provide the definitive number of patient safety incidents occurring in the NHS.

All NHS organisations in England and Wales have been able to report to the system since 2005. In April 2010, it became mandatory for NHS organisations to report all patient safety incidents which result in severe harm or death. All patient safety incident reports submitted to the NRLS categorised as resulting in severe harm or death are individually reviewed by clinicians to make sure that we learn as much as we can from these incidents, and, if appropriate, take action at a national level. The term “avoidable deaths” is not reported within the NRLS.

## **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, you can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within NHS Improvement of the issue or the decision. A senior member of NHS Improvement’s staff, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.

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 FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to FOI Request Reviews, NHS Improvement, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to [nhsi.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nhsi.foi@nhs.net).

### **Publication**

Please note that this letter will shortly be published on our website. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the FOI Act is disclosed to the public at large. We will, of course, remove your personal information (e.g. your name and contact details) from the version of the letter published on our website to protect your personal information from general disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

**NHS Improvement**