

Ref no: 128081118  
From: Commercial  
Date: 08/11/18  
Subject: Suicide prevention

## REQUEST

**Please answer the following questions under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.**

In 2012, a cross-government strategy was put together around preventing suicide. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-third-annual-report> This report identified that doctors and nurses had a 'particularly high' suicide risk compared to other occupational groups [see page 9]. *I am interested only in data relating to nurses/nursing staff. For the purposes of this FOI, I define this to relate to those who hold a registered nursing qualification with the Nursing and Midwifery Council who are on Agenda for Change band 5 or upwards.*

**1)**

**Please state the number of deaths in service [ie: during employment, but not necessarily on the premises or during working hours] of nursing staff employed by your organisation since 2012.**

**2)**

**(i) Please state how many of the total deaths were recorded, known or otherwise suspected to be suicide?**

**(ii) Please state what the different categories of cause of death were recorded as, for the purposes of the organisation's own reporting and recording. For example; cancer, heart failure, suicide etc.**

**3) Please include copies of any 'death in service' procedure or policy the organisation uses.**

**4) Please describe if there is any work in progress to address mental health needs or suicide risk among your nursing workforce, or alternatively where there have been suicides whether there have been any changes in workplace practices as a result?**

## RESPONSE

In 2012, a cross-government strategy was put together around preventing suicide. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-third-annual-report> This report identified that doctors and nurses had a 'particularly high' suicide risk compared to other occupational groups [see page 9]. *I am interested only in data relating to nurses/nursing staff. For the purposes of this FOI, I define this to relate to those who hold a registered nursing qualification with the Nursing and Midwifery Council who are on Agenda for Change band 5 or upwards.*

1)

Please state the number of deaths in service [ie: during employment, but not necessarily on the premises or during working hours] of nursing staff employed by your organisation since 2012.

We are unable to provide the information you require as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved.

2)

(i) Please state how many of the total deaths were recorded, known or otherwise suspected to be suicide?

None

(ii) Please state what the different categories of cause of death were recorded as, for the purposes of the organisation's own reporting and recording. For example; cancer, heart failure, suicide etc.

We are unable to provide the information you require as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved.

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4) Please describe if there is any work in progress to address mental health needs or suicide risk among your nursing workforce, or alternatively where there have been suicides whether there have been any changes in workplace practices as a result?

We provide the following support services through the Health Work and Wellbeing (HWWB) department:

- Mental health nurse employed specifically to support staff with mental health issues
- 24/7 Employee Assistance Programme
- Counselling service
- Occupational Psychologist employed specifically to work with the HWWB Team
- Mindfulness sessions

We also have a Care Pathway should staff present with severe mental health issues.

In addition due to national and local statistics relating to suicide the HWWB Team have completed specific training on 'suicide'.