

Ref no: 129130319  
From: Press  
Date: 13/03/19  
Subject: Patient falls in and NHS hospital setting

## REQUEST

FOI request:

Could you please provide me with the following information:

1. The number of patient falls which have occurred in NHS hospitals within St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust for the years: 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.
  
- 2(a). A breakdown of the number of these falls per hospital, by the years above.
  
- 2(b). A breakdown of the severity of these falls (e.g. low, medium, high)
  
- 3(a). The number of patients who were never discharged after their fall - i.e. died before discharge.
  
- 3(b). Could you break this down both by the years above, and by the hospital where they had the fall?

## RESPONSE

Answers to question 1 and 2 have been supplied in the attached spreadsheet. Please note that we only hold data from 2012 onwards.

Please also note that Newton only became part of the Trust in 2017 hence the limited data for Newton Hospital.

You will note that some figures on the spreadsheet are have been replaced with “\*”, we are unable to provide precise figures when these are five or less due to the risk that individuals will be identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the Data Protection Act. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this

principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

We have considered your request in question 3 but unfortunately we cannot comply with this part of your request. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in answering the remainder of your questions. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.