

Ref no: 134160719
From: Press
Date: 16/07/19
Subject: Long-stay occurrences of patients with No Fixed Abode

REQUEST

1. Please provide (the number of long-stay* occurrences of patients with No Fixed Abode recorded by the hospital trust in 2018/19.
2. As well as the total numbers above, for 2018/19, please also provide the total length of stay (current at time of record, if ongoing) of each long-stay occurrence of a patient with No Fixed abode.

*Long stay is defined by the NHS as 21 days or over.

RESPONSE

Due to the low numbers we are unable to provide this information. 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.