

15 March 2016

By email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

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

I refer to your email of **17 February 2016** in which you requested information under the FOI Act.

Your request

You made the following request:

- ‘1) How many serious incidents requiring investigation have been reported to Monitor by mental health foundation trusts in each of years 2013, 2014 and 2015, with a break down of figures by trust.*
- 2) How many suicides have been reported to Monitor by mental health foundation trusts in each of years 2013, 2014 and 2015, with a break down of figures by trust.*
- 3) How many inpatient suicides have been reported to Monitor by mental health foundation trusts in each of years 2013, 2014 and 2015 with a break down of figures by trust*
- 4) Has Monitor taken any steps to review the accuracy of data on deaths that is reported by NHS foundation trusts or to measure levels of under-reporting. If so, please advise of the methodology and please share the relevant reports and outcomes if any such review or reviews have been undertaken’*

Decision

Questions 1-3

Monitor holds some information within the ambit of paragraphs 1-3 of your request. We have not been able to progress your request because to do so would in our opinion exceed the cost limit specified under section 12 of the FOI Act.

Cost Limit under section 12 of the FOI Act

Under section 12(1) of the FOI Act, Monitor is not required to comply with any request that potentially exceeds the appropriate cost limit. The limit is £450, as set out in The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This

equates to a period of approximately eighteen hours in which to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested.

In Monitor's view, compliance with your request will exceed this limit. There is no central record of the reporting of suicide and serious incidents to Monitor by FTs. To collate this information we would need to search through the individual folders of all mental health FTs over the past 3 years. We estimate that this would exceed the 18 hour limit.

Advice and Assistance provided under section 16 of the FOI Act

Under section 16 of the FOI Act, Monitor is required, as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request to it under the FOI Act.

In the light of our response, you may wish to consider:

- specifying particular trusts in respect of which you require information; or
- specifying a shorter time period for which you seek information.

Question 4

In relation to question 4, Monitor has not undertaken a general review of the accuracy of data reporting on deaths. Monitor's relationship teams will make a judgement based on their level of concerns and knowledge about the issues at each foundation trust (for examples, issues with waiting lists or patient harm reviews) to decide if further work is required. This may include a review of the accuracy of data on deaths and possible under-reporting. There is no standard "methodology" in this respect.

Monitor also regularly reviews mortality data (such as Hospital Standard Mortality Rates (HSMR), Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) or the Care Quality Commission mortality data arising from their work during inspections) to inform its view on the quality governance at foundation trusts.

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 Monitor of the issue or the decision. A senior member of Monitor'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 conducted by Monitor, 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, Monitor, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to foi@monitor.gov.uk.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Coffey', written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Coffey

Deputy Director of Operations and Performance