

Our Ref: ID 1762

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request – Patient Deaths

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on 9th September 2020.

You Asked for:

I am interested in the number of incidents per month where patients died, after they were referred for non-emergency consultant-led elective treatment but had yet to start treatment. i.e. While the patient was on an 'incomplete pathway' following a referral for consultant-led elective treatment.

According to the [2018/19 Annual Report for RTT waiting time statistics for consultant-led elective care](#), there are a number of activities that end the Referral To Treatment (RTT) pathway. One of these is if the 'patient died before treatment'. [See page 4 and page 26].

I have already asked NHS England for these data on a monthly basis at a national level but have been told they do not collate them.

However, I was told by the NHS England press office that commissioner and provider organisations do record when a patient dies while on an incomplete pathway, which makes sense if the statistics are to be accurate.

For background, every month commissioners and providers pass NHS England data on incomplete RTT pathway statistics – see here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2020-21/>

These give figures for the 'Total number of incomplete pathways' for each Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), broken down by 'Treatment Function' (e.g. Urology, Trauma & Orthopaedics etc), as well as a 'Total' for each CCG. For example, at NHS Wirral CCG the Total number of incomplete pathways outstanding in June 2020 was 22,085.

1. Please can you tell me the total number of occasions per calendar month when a patient died while on an incomplete RTT pathway, for each month from January 2018 to the latest available month (July or August 2020)?

Our Response:

Unfortunately, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) does not hold this information. Please can I suggest that you contact Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH). I have included their contact details for your information:

WUTH - wih-tr.AccessstoInformationOffice@nhs.net

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

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