

Ref. No: 159280621
From: Public
Date: 28/06/21
Subject: Covid deaths

REQUEST & RESPONSE

I would like to make a freedom of information request for the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as to how many people have died in your hospitals from Covid-19 alone, as in they died only from Covid-19 and have not died with or from any pre-existing conditions. I would be grateful if you could provide the exact figure from 1st February 2020 to 31st May 2021?

There have been 137 deaths from 1st February 2020 – 31st May 2021 where Covid 19 is the cause of death in section 1a on the MCCD without any underlying conditions in 1b, 1c or section 2.

I would also like to request the exact figure of members of staff who work at the St Helens and Knowsley hospitals who have died from Covid-19 alone, without any pre-existing conditions, during the same time frame as above.

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. 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 “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

