

Ref. No: 0262
Date: 18/09/23
Subject: Patient Safety Incidents

REQUEST

Can I request the number of patient safety incidents that resulted in a severe or death degree of harm to the patients (as defined by NHS England [here](#)) and what month and year they took place from 2010 to present please.

Can I also have these as two separate figures - one for severe and one for death - and a figure of how many deaths there were in total as an incident can refer to more than one death.

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023. As such, information for these two Trusts has been merged to provide a singular response for Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Please find information* attached. Please note that data captured prior to May 2014 pertains only to St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

*Section 40: personal information

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 Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which 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, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.