

FOI 0110 2024 Response

Request

1. I'm interested to learn how many of your patients who were absent without leave (AWOL) under the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA) from any hospitals operated by you either died whilst AWOL or killed someone whilst AWOL. I would be grateful if the answer could distinguish the two points between homicide incidents and other causes, whether that be suicide, misadventure, natural causes, etc.

Year	Number of patients who died of accident / misadventure whilst AWOL	Number of patients who died of suicide whilst AWOL	Number of patients who died of unknown causes whilst AWOL
2019	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0
2021	1-5	0	0
2022	0	0	0
2023	0	1-5	1-5

***Note:**

- The Trust has provided the data in the form of a number range of 1-5.

This is because the number of deaths in each year are considerably low and disclosing this information would or would be likely to compromise the mental health of the relatives of the deceased, should their deceased relative's identity or cause / details of their death be revealed to the wider public.

The Trust therefore, rely on exemption Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to deny this aspect of your request

- The above table lists the number of patient deaths/homicides for inpatients at our hospitals who died between Jan 2019 – Dec 2023 following an absence without leave.
- The AWOL criteria used for this request includes [absconsion from an Inpatient Unit] and [Failure to Return from S17 leave].
- The [unknown cause] death in 2023 is still awaiting an Inquest determination from the coroner.
- The information has been extracted from the BSMHFT Incident Reporting System, which is restricted to hospitals within the Birmingham& Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust.

- There is nothing on our records indicating the AWOL patients committed a homicide.

2. I would also be grateful to know how many of those were from hospitals within the West Midlands area (Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley), as opposed to any inpatient services or other healthcare facilities physically situated outside the region."

Birmingham and Solihull area.