

Compliance Team – Health Records

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FOI REQUEST NUMBER 135-2015

Request:

- a) How many mental health patients in your care committed suicide in 2013 & 2014 & SO FAR IN 2015?
- b) How many mental health inpatients in your care committed suicide in 2013 & 2014 & SO FAR IN 2015?

Response:

The information provided below is where a suicide verdict has been made at the Inquest. We have not included those deaths where there is a narrative verdict. Please note that these numbers may change over time as and when inquests that are open are then concluded. Presently I can confirm:-

Period	Community	Inpatient
January 2013 – December 2013	4	0
January 2014 – December 2014	9	0
January 2015 – May 2015	0	0

Each death is a family and personal tragedy but care must be taken in interpreting variations in relatively low numbers over short periods of time. As contracts change, NHS Trusts may see different groups of patients and so one population's deaths may appear in one organisation's statistics in one year and in another organisation's the following year. In addition, numbers based purely on verdicts of suicide may under-represent unexpected deaths since they exclude coroners' narrative verdicts.