

Request Reference: FOI/013/23

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Information requested:

The information sought is the number of patients admitted to The State Hospital between 1995 and 2023 with a primary diagnosis of personality disorder. A primary diagnosis of personality disorder is where a patient is diagnosed as suffering from personality disorder however, is NOT diagnosed with a co-morbid mental illness and/or learning disability.

In addition to the total number of patients admitted with such a diagnosis could you also provide an average length of stay for such patients. Again please be aware that I do not require any personal information in relation to these patients nor do I require any specific information relating to the individual care and treatment plans.

Response:

Between 1995 and 2023 (where records are digitally available) there have been 8 patients admitted with a primary diagnosis of personality disorder.

The average length of stay for these patients: 32.2 months.

We have not been able to provide the full information requested because under FOISA section 12(1) we are not required to comply with requests that we estimate will cost in excess of £600. Please see the advice and guidance section below.

Advice and Guidance

The State Hospital holds a mixture of digital and paper patient records. Information held in digital systems is reasonably easy to search, however paper records require to be manually read and checked. We have provided our response based solely on our digital records which started in 2011 (with some backdated records for those patients who were admitted at the time of the introduction of the new system).

We estimate that there are around 314 paper case notes that we would need to search to complete this request. Each case note would take about 10 minutes to check which would require just over 52 hours of work. The hourly cost of an appropriate staff member to conduct the search is capped at £15 per hour and therefore we estimate to review the paper case notes would add £780 (52 hours x £15) to the cost of this request, which would raise the cost complying with of this request above the maximum £600 for a FOI request.

As paper case notes were more prevalent in the past, if it is possible to reduce the range of the request this should reduce the costs.

We would suggest that a date range of 2003 – 2023 would be more likely to be within the cost limits.

Please let us know if you would like to reduce the scope of your request.