



Date: 23/09/2020  
Our reference: 3117

Dear Requestor

RE: Freedom of Information Request

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

Please note, as of 1st April 2020 the following Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Mansfield & Ashfield CCG, NHS Newark & Sherwood CCG, NHS Nottingham City CCG, NHS Nottingham North & East CCG, NHS Nottingham West CCG and NHS Rushcliffe CCG, merged to become NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG. More information around the new NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG can be found on our website - <https://nottscgg.nhs.uk/about-us/our-cgg/>

In the request you asked:

I am interested in the number of incidents per month where patients died, after they were referred for non-emergency consultant-led elective treatment but had yet to start treatment. i.e. While the patient was on an 'incomplete pathway' following a referral for consultant-led elective treatment.

According to the [2018/19 Annual Report for RTT waiting time statistics for consultant-led elective care](#), there are a number of activities that end the Referral To Treatment (RTT) pathway. One of these is if the 'patient died before treatment'. [See page 4 and page 26].

I have already asked NHS England for these data on a monthly basis at a national level but have been told they do not collate them.

However, I was told by the NHS England press office that commissioner and provider organisations do record when a patient dies while on an incomplete pathway, which makes sense if the statistics are to be accurate.

For background, every month commissioners and providers pass NHS England data on incomplete RTT pathway statistics – see here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2020-21/>

These give figures for the 'Total number of incomplete pathways' for each CCG, broken down by 'Treatment Function' (e.g. Urology, Trauma & Orthopaedics etc), as well as a 'Total' for each CCG. For example, at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG the Total number of incomplete pathways outstanding in June 2020 was 60,457.

Please can you tell me:

**The total number of occasions per calendar month when a patient died while on an incomplete RTT pathway, for each month from January 2018 to the latest available month (July or August 2020).**

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG does not hold this level of information, please contact the individual providers.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via [lucy.branson@nhs.net](mailto:lucy.branson@nhs.net) or by writing to NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, 1 Standard Court, Park Row, Nottingham, NG1 6GN.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group formerly known as NHS Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham West Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group and Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group formerly known as NHS Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham West Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group.*

[notts.foi@nhs.net](mailto:notts.foi@nhs.net)

*All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the license conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent of the Greater Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Partnership. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead via [notts.foi@nhs.net](mailto:notts.foi@nhs.net). All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.*

