

25th August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your recent follow-up Freedom of Information request regarding Public Health Funerals.

The Trust can provide the following information:

1. Has the Trust conducted any 'Public Health Act Funerals since 01/04/15 to the Present (can you include up to the date you respond to my request)? **Yes; Two Funerals**
2. If the answer to this question is yes, can you disclose:
 - a) The full names of the deceased
 - b) The date of birth of the deceased
 - c) The date of death of the deceased
 - d) The last known address of the deceased
 - e) Whether the details of the deceased, have been/will be or are likely to be referred to the Government Legal Department (if you are not sure then can you just answer that field 'unsure, or unknown' or words to that effect).

(I should just point out that this information is not confidential as details of the recently deceased are published and regularly updated by the British Library, further information can be found by ordering a death certificate). However neither of these sources describe whether the individual has had a public Health funeral).

The Trust is unable to release this information as it was provided in confidence and as such, the Homerton Hospital is required to comply with the common law duty of confidentiality which clearly stipulates that the duty of confidentiality continues to apply even after a person has died. Furthermore we have received no explicit consent from the deceased or the deceased relatives' to release their personal information into the public domain.

3. Have there been any similar FOI requests to this (within the time scale outlined in question 1) **No**
4. Has the Trust given this information away to any other individual or organisation outside the parameters of FOI (other than the Government legal department or internally) within the time scale outlined in question 1 **No**
5. Has the Trust always disclosed details on Public Health Funerals? Or has the Trust refused in the past but then changed its stance after an appeal/internal review? (In terms of time scale can you search as far back as you can without breaching the costs allocated for an FOI request, which does not require the requestor to pay fees). **The Trust has never disclosed any personal information relating to former Homerton Hospital patients who have had a public health funeral.**

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6. If the Trust has refused in similar requests to this in the past and then changed its approach to disclosure **No**
- a) What exemption Clauses were used to block the request
 - b) On what basis did the Council change its approach to disclosure
 - c) If it changed its approach on the basis of an appeal, could you send me a copy of that appeal?

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk, in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

Mike Dunne
Information Governance Manager/Deputy Calidcott Guardian