

8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Our ref: FOI/04192

Dear

Thank you for your request for information.

**Your Request & Our Response**

1. Total number of deaths within the Trust since the pandemic was declared by the WHO on 11th March 2020.	March 2020 - Feb 2021	1721
2. Total number of deaths within the Trust for the same period over each of the previous 5 years (2015-2019).	March 2015-Feb 2016 March 2016-Feb 2017 March 2017-Feb 2018 March 2018-Feb 2019 March 2019 - Feb 2020	1560 1605 1636 1562 1491
3. How do doctors fill in the death certificates for patients whom they believe died of what has been called SARS-CoV-2 / Coronavirus / COVID-19, and which of those terms are used?	The following terms are used by doctors at our Trust when completing death certificates for patients whom they believe died of what has been called SARS-CoV-2 / Coronavirus / COVID-19:  COVID-19  COVID-19 infection  COVID-19 pneumonia	

Chairman: Pearse Butler

Chief Executive: Kevin McGee

**RESEARCH MATTERS AND SAVES LIVES - TODAY'S RESEARCH IS TOMORROW'S CARE**

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals is a Centre of Clinical and Research Excellence providing quality up to date care. We are actively involved in undertaking research to improve treatment of our patients. A member of the healthcare team may discuss current clinical trials with you.



<p>4. Total number of patients who have died within the Trust since the pandemic was declared, as a direct result of SARS-CoV-2 / Coronavirus / COVID-19, meaning that they died of or directly due to, and not with it.</p>	<p>As of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021, our Trust has reported <b>678</b> deaths <b>relating</b> to Covid 19.</p> <p>Of this number, we are not able to say with absolute conviction at this stage the extent to which patients died <u>exclusively</u> as a result of Covid-19 infection, <u>partially</u> as a result of Covid-19 infection or, that Covid-19 infection was an incidental occurrence. This is subject to on-going review.</p>
<p>5. How is it determined whether the patient's death is due to SARS-Cov-2 / Coronavirus / COVID-19 or not? Is there a requirement for a positive PCR result? If so within what time frame would this be prior to the date of death?</p>	<p>Currently most of the deaths reported are associated with a positive PCR result, but a doctor can list CoVID19 as a cause of death if the clinical picture strongly supports CoVID19. These cases are very few at this moment in time though at the start of the pandemic, for deaths outside hospital, PCR results were often not available.</p> <p>For death certification, timing from PCR does not matter if CoVID19 was the direct cause of death (Part1) or contributed to the death (Part 2) it will be included irrespective of how long ago the PCR positive or clinical CoVID onset was.</p> <p>There is a separate statistic that HMG collects which matches PCR positivity and date of death. This uses death within 28 days of positive PCR. CoVID19 may or may not be the cause of death.</p>
<p>6. Of the patients who have SARS-CoV-2 / Coronavirus / COVID-19 on their death certificate, please specify in which part of that certificate it appears - Part 1a, 1b, 1c or part 2.</p>	<p>Covid-19 can be cited in part 1a, 1b or part 2 of the recorded cause of death, dependent on the patient's other illnesses.</p> <p>Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available from our website (below) If you find that the information contained in the website is insufficient. Please let me know.</p> <p><a href="#">Information</a></p>
<p>7. Total bed occupancy in the month of November 2020.</p>	<p>25718 – Number is occupied bed days.</p>
<p>8. Total bed occupancy for November in the previous 5 years (2015-2019).</p>	<p>2015 – 23,330 2016 – 23,647 2017 – 24,791 2018 – 23,316 2019 – 23,745</p> <p>Numbers are occupied bed days.</p>

<p>9. Bed occupancy during the month of November 2020 for patients admitted due to a respiratory problem.</p>	<p>4935 (this is total length of stay – bed days - for admissions during that month. we only have coded data for admissions and discharges, not the census for bed occupancy)</p>
<p>10. Bed occupancy during the month of November in the previous 5 years (2015-2019) for patients admitted due to a respiratory problem.</p>	<p>2015 - 4450 2016 - 5594 2017 - 6182 2018 - 5600 2019 – 7210</p> <p>Numbers are occupied bed days.</p>
<p>11. Number of respiratory patients in November 2020 with a positive PCR test for SARS-CoV-2.</p>	<p>Our systems do not record the requested information in a format that is easily accessible, to retrieve it would require a manual trawl of patient case notes which would exceed 18 hours. This information is therefore exempt on the grounds of cost (Section 12(1)).</p>
<p>12. How do doctors record whether a patient has died due to influenza?</p>	<p>Clinical picture indicative of viral pneumonia with or without secondary infection and PCR positive result for influenza A or B.</p>
<p>13. How many deaths in the month of November 2020 were attributed to influenza?</p>	<p>Information not held.</p> <p>Our Trust does not code or record cause of death due to influenza, only a diagnosis of flu or pneumonia, but not that it specifically killed them.</p>
<p>14. How many deaths in the November of the previous 5 years were attributed to influenza?</p>	<p>Information not held.</p> <p>Our Trust does not code or record cause of death due to influenza, only a diagnosis of flu or pneumonia, but not that it specifically killed them.</p>
<p>15. Number of covid deaths so far in the under 60 age bracket</p>	<p>Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available from our website (below) If you find that the information contained in the website is insufficient. Please let me know.</p> <p><a href="#">Information</a></p>

16. Number of covid deaths so far in the 60-69 yrs	Please refer to answer to Q15						
17. Number of covid deaths so far in the 70-79 yrs	Please refer to answer to Q15						
18. Number of covid deaths so far in the over 80's	Please refer to answer to Q15						
19. ICU occupancy for each month of 2020 versus ICU occupancy for each month of the previous 5 years.		<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Jan</b>	804	871	757	903	878	943
	<b>Feb</b>	752	792	736	773	758	834
	<b>Mar</b>	898	829	870	872	776	731
	<b>Apr</b>	767	738	716	729	811	629
	<b>May</b>	763	764	702	796	784	603
	<b>Jun</b>	805	768	781	764	710	541
	<b>Jul</b>	852	717	788	818	756	631
	<b>Aug</b>	689	683	751	793	798	710
	<b>Sep</b>	699	736	818	724	819	713
	<b>Oct</b>	736	774	744	760	818	956
	<b>Nov</b>	752	758	833	831	881	1135
	<b>Dec</b>	749	743	845	778	876	1037
20. ICU occupancy for each month of 2020 due to COVID-19	<b>2020</b>	<b>Occupied bed days</b>					
	Apr	<b>285</b>					
	May	<b>165</b>					
	Jun	<b>81</b>					
	Jul	<b>50</b>					
	Aug	<b>15</b>					
	Sep	<b>15</b>					
	Oct	<b>295</b>					
	Nov	<b>304</b>					
	Dec	<b>433</b>					

The information in this response is provided under the terms of the Open Government Licence. Please see here for more information:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

The following link is a customer satisfaction survey if you would like to leave feedback:

<http://www.bfwh.nhs.uk/our-services/hospital-services/information-governance/foi-questionnaire/>

If you are dissatisfied with our response to your request for access to information you may ask us to carry out an internal review. You should do this by writing to:

The Information Governance Manager  
Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Blackpool Victoria Hospital  
Whinney Heys Rd  
Blackpool  
FY3 8NR

Email: [bfwh.pso@nhs.net](mailto:bfwh.pso@nhs.net) Requests for a review must be received within 40 working days following the initial response.

If you are not content with the outcome of our review, you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours Sincerely,

**Stephen Connor**  
**Freedom of Information Manager**  
**Home 15 | Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**  
**Whinney Heys Road | Blackpool | Lancashire | FY3 8NR**

