



Kent and Medway
NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Information Governance & Records Management Department

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Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 49645 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding: -

Patient Admissions, Restraints & AWOL Clients

Your request is set out below:

1. How many patients have been admitted to inpatient wards for each of the last 5 calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?

Calendar Year	No of Patient Admissions
2020	2796
2021	2441
2022	2214
2023	2219
2024	2131

2. How many patients have absconded from inpatient wards each year - during the years stated above?

No. of Incidents by Sub-Category and Calendar Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Absconded / left without informing staff	33	16	20	12	7
AWOL / absconded (detained patients only)	218	196	266	99	84
AWOL / failed to return from granted leave (detained patients only)				148	157
Failed to return from authorized leave	44	45	51	15	
Failed to return from leave (informal patients only)				56	49
TOTAL	339	298	383	419	355

Please note that the sections coloured grey are due to a change in systems and these categories did not exist on the historic. Therefore, the requested information is not held centrally and is contained within the individual clinical records which cannot be extracted as a stand-alone piece of data. In

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Trust Chair – Dr Jackie Craissati
Chief Executive – Sheila Stenson

order to extract the requested information and collate the results would require a manual exercise to identify and review clinical records and would exceed the appropriate time limits, as per the Freedom of Information Act 2000 section 12(1) which does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

- a. How many were then found?

All information requested is not routinely collected outside normal record keeping of a clinical record. The requested information is not held centrally and is contained within the individual clinical records which cannot be extracted as a stand-alone piece of data. In order to extract the requested information and collate the results would require a manual exercise to identify and review clinical records and would exceed the appropriate time limits, as per the Freedom of Information Act 2000 section 12(1) which does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

- b. How many times were police called to assist in searching for the missing patient?

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3. How many times did staff at the trust use face down restraint (prone restraint) on patients during the years stated above?

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Prone Restraint	166	159	97	52	65

KMPT do not intentionally or deliberately use prone restraint. However, on occasions staff may, due to the level of aggression, be forced forward to the floor. They are taught how to safely manage this by either relocating to an alternative position or to release their holds. Additionally, patients with a history of specific trauma may choose, as a last resort to be restrained in the prone position instead of supine position. The slight increase in prone restraint figures between 2023 and 2024 can be attributed to one individual.

- a. How many times did this relate to restraining an individual 17 and under?

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust is commissioned to provide the adult mental health services for the Kent and Medway area. On occasions some of our services including Liaison Diversion and Reconnect Services, Perinatal Mental Health Services and Early Intervention for Psychosis services may come into contact with individuals under the age of 18 years.

Due to the low numbers involved in the response to your request I would like to confirm that we are unable to release the information, in full. We are not obliged, under section 40 (2) FOIA to provide information that is personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance we believe that the figures are significantly low enough that identification of those involved could be made, and would therefore contravene the first Data Protection principle, therefore section 40 (2) is engaged. The terms of this exemption in the freedom of information act mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

b. What age was the youngest patient to be restrained in this manner?

The Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust are commissioned to provide the adult mental health services for the Kent and Medway area. On occasions some of our services including Liaison Diversion and Reconnect Services, Perinatal Mental Health Services and Early Intervention for Psychosis services may come into contact with individuals under the age of 18 years.

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4. How many times did staff use physical restraint techniques on patients during the years stated above?

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Restraints	1593	1240	1125	949	1019

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I confirm that the information above completes your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am also pleased to confirm that no charge will be made for this request.

If you have any questions or concerns or are unhappy with the response provided or the service you have received you can write to the Head of Information Governance at the address on top of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of
The Information Governance Department