Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
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FOI/38709

3rd November 2026

Deaths Recorded In Connection with Psychiatric Care

I am seeking recorded statistical information for independent documentary research into deaths associated with psychiatric care across the United Kingdom, informed by the issues examined by the Lampard Inquiry. This request is not made on behalf of the Inquiry.
Period and organisational coverage

Please provide information relating to deaths occurring between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2025 inclusive, using the most recent recorded classification available when you answer.

Please include relevant records you hold for predecessor organisations and services subsequently transferred, merged or closed. Please identify which organisations and periods your response covers.

1. **Deaths recorded in connection with psychiatric care**

For each calendar year, please provide the number of unique people recorded as having died from a non-natural or external cause in connection with your psychiatric or mental health services.

Please include confirmed and suspected suicide, fatal self-harm, accidental injury or poisoning, overdose, homicide or assault, and other recorded external causes.

Please separately identify deaths of undetermined intent and deaths whose cause remains unknown or pending investigation. These should not automatically be counted as confirmed non-natural deaths.

Where recorded and retrievable, please distinguish:

a. Deaths during a psychiatric inpatient admission, including deaths on the unit, during authorised leave or absence without leave, and off-site deaths while the admission remained open.

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b. Deaths following discharge from psychiatric inpatient care, within three calendar months of discharge.

c. Deaths during or within three calendar months of transfer from psychiatric inpatient care to another provider or a physical healthcare setting.

d. Deaths of people under active community mental health, crisis or home treatment services at the time of death.

e. Deaths while awaiting assessment under mental health legislation; while awaiting an inpatient bed following a recorded decision that admission was required; or within three calendar months of a mental health assessment that did not result in admission.

Please include all ages, both detained and informal patients, and relevant specialist services, including CAMHS, older adult, forensic/secure, psychiatric intensive care, perinatal, eating disorder, learning disability and substance misuse inpatient services where these fall within your service records.

Please include relevant NHS-funded placements with independent or out-of-area providers where you hold the information, identifying these separately from care you directly provided.

If these groups overlap, please flag that overlap.

Please provide an overall deduplicated total where your records allow this; otherwise explain why the figures cannot safely be added together.

2. **Recorded cause and circumstances**

For the deaths above, please provide annual breakdowns by the recorded cause, intent or incident classification, using your existing categories and supplying their definitions where held.
Where separately recorded, please also provide annual counts involving:

• Hanging, ligature or strangulation.
• Overdose or poisoning.
• Other fatal self-harm.
• Assault or homicide.
• Other accidental or external causes.

These are potentially overlapping circumstances, not mutually exclusive causes. Please identify overlap and do not add these figures together as though each represents a different person.

Please distinguish confirmed classifications from suspected or provisional classifications where your records permit. Please do not restrict the response solely to deaths with a completed inquest or a formal suicide conclusion.

I am requesting existing recorded classifications, not asking you to make new clinical or legal judgments.

3. Sources and gaps

Please identify the sources used, such as mortality registers, patient safety incident systems, serious incident records, safeguarding records, coroner outcome registers or existing mortality reports.

For each year or category where a figure cannot be supplied, please distinguish:

• Zero recorded deaths.
• Information not held.
• Information held but not separately identifiable without further review.
• Information withheld under a specified statutory provision.

Please identify material changes in recording systems, definitions or service coverage that affect comparisons over time. Where recorded, please identify the earliest year for which relevant information remains available and any relevant retention or transfer arrangements explaining earlier gaps.

If your organisation did not provide relevant services during some or all of the period, please state this and identify any relevant successor or record-holding authority known to you.

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Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested.