

Ref. No: 2200  
Date: 02/12/25  
Subject: Do not resuscitate orders

## REQUEST

1. The total number of patients who died under the care of your Trust, broken down by a.) whether they had a learning disability and / or autism, or b.) did not.
2. For each of these sub-categories (patients with a learning disability / autism, and patients who do not have a learning disability /autism), please provide the number of patients who had a 'do not resuscitate' order on their medical records
3. Please provide the above information for each year, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021.

## RESPONSE

Following a thorough assessment, we regret to inform you that Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is unable to comply with your request, as doing so would exceed the cost limit set out under **Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**.

Section 12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the **appropriate limit**, which is currently set at **£450** for NHS organisations. This equates to **18 hours of staff time**, calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In this case, fulfilling your request would take an incalculable amount of time in excess of 18hrs as over 500,000 sets of hospital notes would require review.

The Trust has estimated that locating, retrieving, and extracting the relevant information would significantly exceed the 18-hour threshold, even with reasonable efforts to narrow the scope.

We are therefore applying Section 12 of the Act and will not be proceeding with the request in its current form.

However, we would be happy to assist you in refining your request to bring it within the cost limit. For example, narrowing the timeframe, specifying particular departments, or focusing on a specific aspect of the information may help reduce the burden of compliance.

Please let us know if you would like support in revising your request.