



Surrey and Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

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Our ref: 4827

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Freedom of information request

I am writing in response to your request for information which has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

1. Please tell me how many public health funerals your NHS trust has provided in the financial years of: 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2017/2018
2. Please tell me the total cost of public health funerals your NHS trust spent in the financial years of: 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2017/2018
3. What was the most expensive, and the cheapest, public health funeral this hospital trust arranged in the financial years of: 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2017/2018
4. How many of the public health funerals given in the financial years of: 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2017/2018 were for a still-born baby?
5. How many times is an unmarked grave used?
6. Please tell me how long a body was held in your hospital mortuary until the public health funeral was arranged.

	2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018	
Number of funerals provided by the trust	3		4		11	
Total cost of funerals	£ 3415.00		£ 4297.00		£ 13,873	
Most expensive and cheapest	Expensive	Cheapest	Expensive	Cheapest	Expensive	Cheapest
	£1145.00	£1135.00	£1145.00	£ 862.00	£ 1970.00	£867.00
How many were for a still-born baby	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total times an unmarked grave used	0		0		0	
How long body held in mortuary until funeral	*See notes below		*See notes below		On average 55 days	

* Given the low number of patients involved, there is a risk if we were to place this information in the public domain that someone may be able to identify the individual. On this basis we rely on the exemption contained in s40 (2) and condition in s40(3)(a)i, which prevents us from disclosing personal data if by doing so we would breach any of the data protection principles. We do not believe that patients would expect us to process their personal data in this way and conclude that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle, which requires us to process personal data fairly and lawfully.