



Public Health Department

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Date: 29th November 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ06529

Thank you for your recent request for information. Your request has been considered under the above Act.

You have requested the following information:

Number of Suicides

- 1. The number of men in Coventry who committed suicide from the start of January 2019 to the end of October 2019.**
- 2. The number of men in Coventry who committed suicide from the start of January 2018 to the end of October 2018.**
- 3. The number of women in Coventry who committed suicide from the start of January 2019 to the end of October 2019.**
- 4. The number of women in Coventry who committed suicide from the start of January 2018 to the end of October 2018.**

We do not hold the information for the specific time periods you have identified above, we are therefore advising you as per Section 1 (1) of the Act.

Data on Male and Female Suicides in Coventry during 2016-18 is already in the public domain, available at:

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/suicide/data#page/1/gid/1938132828/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/102/are/E08000026/iid/41001/age/285/sex/1>

We therefore do not have to disclose this information as per Section 21 of the FOI Act.

In England and Wales, all deaths caused by suicide are certified by a coroner. It will take some time for the 2019 data to become available due to the time needed for Coroner's Inquests etc. It is also worth noting that the standard of proof applied to suicide verdicts has recently changed:

In July 2018, the standard of proof used by coroners to determine whether a death was caused by suicide was lowered to the "civil standard" – balance of probabilities – where previously a "criminal standard" was applied – beyond all reasonable doubt. The change does not affect Northern Ireland or Scotland. It is likely that lowering the standard of proof will also result in an increased number of deaths recorded as suicide, possibly creating a discontinuity in the national data series which should also be borne in mind.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its [FOI/EIR Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours sincerely

Liz Gaulton
Director of Public Health & Wellbeing