



**Information Governance Team**

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03 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI546845375**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Post-mortem examinations.

You have requested the following information:

**Please could you provide data for the following questions for the time periods stated here:**

- 01/01/2020-31/12/2020
- 01/01/2021-31/12/2021
- 01/01/2022-31/12/2022
- 01/01/2023-current date

1. How many deaths were reported to the coroner ?
2. How many of the coroner-reported deaths required any kind of post-mortem examinations ?
3. How many post-mortem examinations required external review of the body only?
4. How many post-mortem examinations required additional toxicology tests ?
5. How many post-mortem examinations required histology tests on organ and tissue samples from the body ?
6. How many post-mortem examinations underwent CT scanning ?
  - a. Of those that underwent CT scanning how many also underwent invasive autopsy examination?
7. How many post-mortem examinations underwent MRI scanning ?
  - a. Of those that underwent MRI scanning how many also underwent invasive autopsy

**examination?**

**8. With regards to post-mortem examinations for the Coroner, what was the cost of:**

- a. Pathologist examination of the body, autopsy and report?**
- b. the external examination of the body ?**
- c. typical screen of toxicology tests ?**
- d. typical test on organ or tissue samples from the body ?**
- e. CT scan?**
- f. MRI scan ?**
- g. full internal invasive examination (autopsy) of the body ?**
- h. CT scanning and a focused or full internal invasive examination of the body ?**

**9. What was the average time taken (with minimum and maximum range) to issue the death certificate in cases where no post mortem examination was undertaken ?**

**10. What was the average time taken (with minimum and maximum range) to issue the death certificate in cases where full invasive internal examination (autopsy) of the body was undertaken?**

**11. What was the time taken(with minimum and maximum range) to issue the death certificate in cases where CT scanning was undertaken ?**

**12. Are there any restriction on access to the local mortuary facilities during the week to allow invasive autopsy procedures in non-suspicious cases**

**13. How many days in a year is there no access to the mortuary facilities to be able to perform invasive autopsies?**

We hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Most of the information requested is not held in a reportable format where we can easily identify, retrieve and collate the information. We have therefore estimated that it would exceed 18 hours manual work to complete this. Your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we advise that we can provide with the latest information held we hold as part of the annual reports that are created (see attached). Please note that this year's report will not be produced until early Jan 2024.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR 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.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication](#)

[Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

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](mailto: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 [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**

	01/01/2020-31/12/2020	01/01/2021-31/12/2022	01/01/2022-31/12/2022	01/01/2023-30/09/2023
1. How many deaths reported to Coroner	1389	1363	1509	
2. How many deaths required PM	479	485	465	
3. External PM only	4	8	1	
4. How many required toxicology	114	147	134	
5. How many required histology	171	179	176	
6. CT Scan PM	4	8	1	
6a. Invasive after CT	Not known	Not known	Not known	
7. MRI PM	N/A	N/A	N/A	
7a. Invasive after MRI	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8. With regards to post-mortem examinations for the Coroner, what was the cost of:				
8a. Pathologist examination of the body, autopsy and report?				
8b. the external examination of the body ?				
8c. typical screen of toxicology tests ?				
8d. typical test on organ or tissue samples from the body ?				
8e. CT scan?		0	0	0
8f. MRI scan ?	N/A	N/A	N/A	
8g. full internal invasive examination (autopsy) of the body ?				
8h. CT scanning and a focused or full internal invasive examination of the body ?	Ct scan paid for by NOK, but invasive as above	Ct scan paid for by NOK, but invasive as above	Ct scan paid for by NOK, but invasive as above	
9. What was the average time taken (with minimum and maximum range) to issue the death certificate in cases where no post mortem examination was undertaken ?				
10. What was the average time taken (with minimum and maximum range) to issue the death certificate in cases where full invasive internal examination (autopsy) of the body was undertaken?				
11. What was the time taken (with minimum and maximum range) to issue the death certificate in cases where CT scanning was undertaken ?				
12. Are there any restriction on access to the local mortuary facilities during the week to allow invasive autopsy procedures in non-suspicious cases	Unable to answer	Unable to answer	Unable to answer	
13. How many days in a year is there no access to the mortuary facilities to be able to perform invasive autopsies?	Unable to answer	Unable to answer	Unable to answer	