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London NW1 0PE  
[Freedom.Information@Candi.nhs.uk](mailto:Freedom.Information@Candi.nhs.uk)

3 December 2014

**Reference: 2014-130**

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Information Request – Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Following your request for information we received on the 7 November 2014, we are providing you with access to the recorded information held by Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust in answer to your enquiry.

You requested the following information:

**The number of patients who have absconded from hospital whilst receiving treatment for mental illnesses from Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust:**

- a) 2011
- b) 2012
- c) 2013
- d) 2014 (year so far)

The Trust's response is as follows:

Year	Number of Incidents of AWOL	Number of people who went AWOL
2011	91	14
2012	104	11
2013	140	43
2014	173	94
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>162</b>

Please note the Trust is only able to accurately identify the people involved in every incident from October 2013 onwards as this was not routinely recorded prior to this.

Therefore we have provided statistics for the number of incidents and separately the number of people (where this has been recorded).

With regard to the number of incidents please note we have only included incidents where the subcategory recorded against the incident clearly indicates the service user was under section. Historically the subcategories were broader and so included informal patients and sectioned patients under the same headings. It was not possible therefore without manually auditing every record to determine which records under these headings relate to absconding or just a missing person. To manually audit every record, it would take more than 18 hours.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to provide the information if it will take more than 18 hours to extract the requested information thereby exceeding the statutory prescribed limit (which is £450) under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Please note that it will take more than 18 hours to extract the information because it would involve the below two-step process:

The Trust has calculated that there are 186 additional records that have not been included in the response because it is not possible to determine from the category of the incident record whether the person was under section or not. There is an additional 228 incidents which were included in the response where the name of the individual is not recorded. Total number of records to be audited is therefore 414.

- 1) Step one: It would be necessary to audit each of the 186 records to see if the necessary information regarding section status and the name of the individual is recorded on the incident form. This would probably take about 5 minutes to access and read each record which would mean 15.5 hours work.
- 2) Step two: For each of the 228 incidents where the name is not recorded and any from step one above where the name and or section status is not recorded, it would be necessary to contact each ward to see if they hold further records on the incident to identify the individual and then search the RiO records or retrieve and read the notes for each. It is not possible to say how many records this would relate to without doing the first step above but potentially this could be relevant for all 186 records. Therefore potentially 414 records to follow up on. It is estimated that this step could take a number of hours per record (minimum  $414 \times 1\text{hr} = 414$  hours).

The Trust acknowledges that the requested information was not routinely recorded, which means that even if it did audit all the 414 records, in all probability the information would just not be available.

I do hope you are satisfied with the way in which your response was handled, if not you may request an internal review at the above email address within 28 days of this letter. When contacting the Trust please use the above reference that is unique to your request.

If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner' Office at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF and on the Information Centre's website. [www.ico.gov.uk/](http://www.ico.gov.uk/)

Yours sincerely

  
Interim Information Governance Officer