

Information Governance

White Building
Littlemore Mental Health Centre
Sandford Road
Littlemore
Oxford
OX4 4XN

Tel: 0845 219 1269
Fax: 0845 219 1275
Web: www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

18 April 2019
Reference no.18190482

Dear

Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email of 21st March making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

Request:

Use of Mechanical Restraint (including handcuffs and defacto equipment ie sheets/procedures)

I am undertaking study research and would be grateful if you could please provide the following information:-

- 1) Does your Authority use Mechanical Restraint?
- 2) If so, what form does this take ie handcuffs, soft cuffs, emergency response belt, seclusion etc
- 3) In what circumstances are mechanical restraint techniques applied
- 4) How many incidents of the use of mechanical restraint have been recorded by your Authority over the last three years?
- 5) The number of injuries/fatalities incurred by both Service Users and Staff during the use of mechanical restraint in the last three years.

Response:

The Trust have provided information according to the Mental Health Act Code of Practice definition of mechanical restraint (seclusion is not a mechanical restraint):

26.75 Mechanical restraint is a form of restrictive intervention that refers to the use of a device to prevent, restrict or subdue movement of a person's body, or part of the body, for the primary purpose of behavioural control.

- 1) Yes
- 2) Handcuffs and a restraint belt both within Forensic Services.
- 3) Handcuffs are applied during escort of Forensic service patients outside of the secure perimeter of the unit and who are at risk of absconding. At times this is specified by the Ministry of Justice as a condition of leave.

A restraint belt has been used, but it is not a technique used routinely within the service.

- 4) 185
- 5) None

If you are concerned with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for FoI Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance