

Ben Cowles
By Email

2nd March 2023

Dear Mr Cowles,

Freedom of Information request (ref: 73716): internal review

Thank you for your email of **2 February 2023** in which you asked for an internal review of the response to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Your FOI request of **3 January 2023** asked for information about deaths in asylum accommodation. Your request can be viewed in full at **Annex A**.

I have now completed the review and have assessed the substance of the response provided to you. I can confirm that I was not involved in the initial handling of your request.

The FOI response provided the information you requested. A full copy of the response can be found in **Annex B**.

The review is based on the points you have raised in your internal review request which can be found in full at **Annex C**.

The main focus of your complaint is that you believe there are discrepancies in the data provided.

I have carefully considered your comments and consulted with the business area that responded to your request.

The business area has reviewed the original handling and can provide an updated version set out in the attached. Any discrepancies in relation to previous information provided has been explained in the clarification box.

This completes the internal review by the Home Office.

Yours sincerely,

S.Wilson

Annex A – original request dated 3 January 2023

Dear Home Office,

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 to request the following information:

- 1) The numbers of asylum seekers who have died in Home Office accommodation between 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.
- 2) For each death, please include the cause and location of death (or the region), their ages, nationalities, and genders.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined, I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,
Ben Cowles

Annex B – original response dated 27 January 2023

Dear Mr Cowles

Thank you for your enquiry of 3 January in which you requested information about deaths in asylum accommodation. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Information Requested

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 to request the following information:

- 1) The numbers of asylum seekers who have died in Home Office accommodation between 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.*
- 2) For each death, please include the cause and location of death (or the region), their ages, nationalities, and genders.*

Response

We are able to provide you with the information as set out in the attached Annex.

It is important to note this information has been taken from a live operational database and as such may change as information on that system is updated. Deaths will be reported to the Home Office by a third party, typically the emergency services and occasionally the accommodation provider and initial reports may not contain all details which may emerge over time. These statistics are based on such reports and are therefore provisional, subject to change and are not assured to the standard of official statistics.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to: foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference 73716. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

A link to the Home Office Information Rights Privacy Notice can be found in the following link. This explains how we process your personal information:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-rights-privacy-notice>

Yours sincerely

J Jones
Central Operations

Annex C – internal review request dated 2 February 2023

Dear Home Office,

I am writing to you to request an independent internal review into the response I received from a Freedom of Information request with the following reference number: 73716

On 3 January 2023, I requested the following:

- 1) The numbers of asylum seekers who have died in Home Office accommodation between 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.
- 2) For each death, please include the cause and location of death (or the region), their ages, nationalities, and genders.

The data the Home Office provided to me on 27 January 2023 shows that 22 asylum seekers died whilst in Home Office accommodation during that period.

However, previous FOI (71130) data provided to me by the Home Office in August (and following an internal review in September) 2022 shows that 21 people died between 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022.

In fact, M Egerton said in his reply to my FOI request on 9 August 2022 that "I can confirm that between the 1st of January and the 30th of June 2022, 21 Asylum Seekers died whilst they were residing in Home Office accommodation."

But the new data only has 12 people listed as having died in the first six months of 2022.

The following people who were listed in FOI 71130 are missing in FOI 73716:

- 0 Kuwait Bidoun female (MEE)
- 0 Syria male (Scotland)
- 22 Vietnam male (South)
- 25 Eritrea male (MEE)
- 31 Egypt male (NEYH)
- 36 Eritrea male (NW)
- 39 Nigeria female (NEYH)
- 48 Trinidad & Tobago male (South)
- 53 Bangladesh male (Wales)
- 58 Sri Lanka male (MEE)
- 66 Pakistan male (NW)

Can you please explain this discrepancy, and confirm the dates that the people above died?

I have attached the Home Office's responses to FOIs 71130 and 73716.

I look forward to your response.

Regards,
Ben Cowles

Annex D - Complaints Procedure

If you remain dissatisfied with the response to your FoI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

FOI Review 73716 - Clarifications

Date of referral	Incident Type	Headline Incident	Age on Referral Date	Nationality	Gender	Geographical Location of SUs address	Clarifications
04/01/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Death of an Asylum Supported (UNCONFIRMED, BUT NOT AT THE ACCOMMODATION)		21 Vietnam	M	South	Age has differed: shows as 22 under FOI 71130, correct age is 21.
07/01/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Applicant passed away following a terminal illness		53 Bangladesh	M	Wales	Appears on both versions, marked under FOI 71130 cause of death as cancer.
11/01/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Subject died in hospital following an operation		66 Pakistan	M	North West	Appears on both versions, marked under FOI 71130 cause of death following op for heart procedure.
14/01/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	SU found deceased at accommodation, cause currently unknown		58 Sri Lanka	M	Midlands and East of England	Marked under FOI 71130 as cause of death terminal illness.
01/02/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	SU's baby, who was born prematurely and had medical conditions owing to this, has passed away		37 Kuwait Bidoun	M	Midlands and East of England	Previously recorded as New Born, Kuwait Bidoun, F, MEE, Born Premature Complications under FOI 71130
14/02/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Incident where an applicant has committed suicide at a train station		25 Eritrea	M	Midlands and East of England	Appears on both versions: Cause of death marked as suicide.
22/02/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Death of a SU - cause to be determined		47 Trinidad & Tobago	M	South	Appears on both versions: Age on referral date differs, 48 under FOI 73716 and 47 under FOI 71130. 2022 Incident Log checked, correct age on referral date is 47.
22/02/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	SU has died of an illness affecting their brain		34 Iran	M	MEE	Appears on both versions.
	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Death of a person who is potentially an asylum seeker - awaiting confirmation		36 Eritrea	M	North West	Appears on both versions: Cause of death marked as to be confirmed.
12/04/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Police have located a body that they believe is this service user, however this is unconfirmed at this time. The death is being treated as suicide, this is also unconfirmed		31 Egypt	M	North, East Yorkshire & The Humber	Appears on both versions: Cause of death marked as suicide.
27/04/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user's baby passed away shortly after birth owing to a medical concern that had been noted prior to birth		31 Syria	F	Scotland	Previously recorded as New Born, Syria, M, Scotland, Medical Condition noted before birth, passed away shortly after born under FOI 71130
17/05/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Main applicant died of cancer		37 Nigeria	F	NEYH	Appears on both versions: Age on referral date differs, 37 under FOI 73716 and 39 under FOI 71130. 2022 Incident Log checked, correct age on referral date is 37.
30/05/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away in hospital		79 India	M	NW	Appears on both versions.
31/05/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away in hospital		43 Cote D'Ivoire	F	Scotland	Appears on both versions.
06/06/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away in nursing home		68 Kenya	F	South	Appears on both versions.
14/06/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away at HO Accommodation		72 Afghanistan	F	South	Appears on both versions.
14/06/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away following illness		63 Senegal	F	MEE	Appears on both versions.
27/06/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away in hospital following illness		56 Afghanistan	M	North West	Appears on both versions.
28/06/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)			50 Vietnam	M	NEYH	Appears on both versions.
30/06/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away due to cancer		40 Iraq	M	South	Appears on both versions.
30/06/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away due to cancer		60 Zambia	F	South	Appears on both versions.
19/07/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away due to terminal cancer		56 Botswana	F	North West	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
25/07/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away from suspected heart attack		47 Palestinian authority	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
27/07/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Service user passed away in possible suspicious circumstances; under investigation		28 Lebanon	M	North West	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
27/07/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away from terminal cancer		51 Russian Federation	F	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
02/08/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user killed in road traffic incident		48 Iran	M	NEYH	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
04/08/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Service user passed away at accommodation; cause of death currently unknown		47 Nigeria	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
04/08/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user's daughter passed away, cause unknown currently but not suspicious		0 Namibia	F	NEYH	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
11/08/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user's baby passed away owing to heart condition		0 Honduras	M	NW	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
18/08/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Service user went missing and subsequently found deceased. Suspected suicide.		45 Georgia	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
22/08/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Service user died by apparent suicide, awaiting coroner confirmation		29 Iran (Islamic Republic of)	M	North, East Yorkshire & The Humber	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
05/09/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Service user found deceased in [REDACTED]		33 Libya	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
13/09/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Death of child service user aged seven months. Cause not currently confirmed, police investigation underway		0 Namibia	F	Scotland	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
14/09/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away in hospital		56 Iran (Islamic Republic of)	M	Scotland	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
31/10/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user passed away in hospital		51 Nigeria	F	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
01/11/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	SU was experiencing chest pains, called for paramedics, SU died on route to hospital.		39 Kuwait Bidoun	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
09/11/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	SU committed Suicide at ODA leaving a note, awaiting for cause of death to be determined		45 Russian Federation	M	Wales	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
11/11/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	On 11/11/2022 a member of the public witnessed a female jumping into the canal. The body was located in [REDACTED].		21 Russian Federation	F	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
14/11/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Service user has been found deceased in London by police		19 Eritrea	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
15/11/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	SU died on the night of the 7th November		24 Cameroon	M	North West	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
01/12/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	SU passed away but not treated as suspicious due to medical history		31 Iraq	M	North west	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
13/12/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Housing officer called to the address after receiving a call from other Service users based at the property stating bad smell at the accommodation. Housing Officer attend		50 Angola	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
13/12/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	SU passed away due to natural causes		54 Sudan	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
14/12/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	CRH SG Manager received a call from the Housing Officer to say that Service user had been found deceased in their property.		54 Sudan	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
20/12/2022	Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)	Provider report stating that SU passed away on 17/12/22, informed by SU's daughter on inspection of property.		48 Nigeria	F	North West	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.
22/12/2022	Death of a Service User (explained)	Service user is reported to have cut his throat and has been determined as brain dead.		40 USA	M	South	Post-June 2022, not covered under FOI 71130.