

FOI 0249/2021 Response

1. Details of the type of security fencing the Trust has installed on the perimeter of external courtyards and gardens where patients may exercise or get fresh air at acute mental health wards at your Trust.

- a) **Please specify the height of the fence.**
- b) **Please specify the type of fence (metal mesh, barred, etc); and whether any other measures to prevent absconsion such as roller bars have been put in place.**

The Trust is unable to provide a response to this query.

This is because disclosure of the requested information may leave the Trust's external perimeter security measures vulnerable and at risk.

The Trust therefore, rely on exemption Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to deny this aspect of your request.

2. Please specify whether your patients who are sectioned under Section 2 or Section 3 of the Mental Health Act are always accompanied, sometimes accompanied, or never accompanied by healthcare staff when they are allowed access to these outside areas at acute mental health wards.

Please note for the Trust's Reaside site:

- Reaside is classified as an inpatient medium secure service and provides assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation to male patients with a forensic history, suffering with complex and severe mental health problems and exhibit seriously aggressive or threatening behaviour.
- Patients on Section 2 or 3 would be observed in courtyards all the time – we may have 5 patients in the courtyard for example, all will be observed but not all have a member of staff directly with them.

Please note for the Trust's Tamarind site:

- Tamarind is classified as an inpatient medium secure service and that provides assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation to male patients with a forensic history, suffering with complex and severe mental health problems and exhibit seriously aggressive or threatening behaviour.
- Each ward within Tamarind has its own courtyard and there is an additional larger internal courtyard that all the wards can access.
- Service users regardless of MHA status have access to the courtyards within the Trust's inpatients wards and are always observed.

These are unlocked throughout the day, and are locked at midnight, however, if a service user wanted to access the courtyard at that time this would be based on a dynamic risk assessment to which they may be accompanied.

In terms of the additional larger internal shared courtyard, access to this is based on risk assessment and can be accessed at certain time of the day.

Please note for the Trust's Ardenleigh site:

- Ardenleigh is classified as an inpatient medium secure service and provides treatment and rehabilitation to female patients suffering with complex and severe and enduring mental illness.
- Patients on Section 2 or 3 would be observed in courtyards all the time – we may have 5 patients in the courtyard for example, all will be observed but not all have a member of staff directly with them.

Please note for the Trust's Acute and Urgent service inpatient wards:

- The Acute and Urgent services provide care for adults in an inpatient setting, building on service users' strengths, maintaining levels of independence, and promoting well-being. The service is aimed at people who are experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis of such severity that it cannot be managed at home with the involvement and interventions of staff in the community.
- Service users regardless of MHA status have access to outdoor courtyards on the ward which are always supervised.
- During winter months/dark nights this area may be locked depending on risks, patients can still access the space, however, and they will be supervised.
- Please note that subject to a patient's risk assessment they may be accompanied.