

Information Governance

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Ref: FOI2018/4613

Date Received: 17th April 2018
Response Due: 16th May 2018

11th May 2018

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

We are now pleased to respond to your request for information under the FOI Act.

Please can you answer the following under the FOI request:

1. *Do you have a staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Trust?* [Yes](#)

If yes, can you supply an electronic copy? [Please see attached.](#)

2. *As part of your strategy or through Occupational Health Department, do you or have you considered using Complementary Therapies to support staff? For example, holistic therapeutic massage for staff mental wellbeing and workplace stress, reflexology, sports massage for rehab and recovery or any others.* [We have in the past offered short taster sessions of Reiki – staff were able to take up further sessions but of their own choosing directly with the therapist \(not employed by WWL\). Currently a different external provider offers staff reflexology, remedial massage, aromatherapy at discounted rates. This is all arranged between the therapist and staff member.](#)
3. *If you do use complementary therapy – do you find it useful in reducing sickness absence, reducing stress related absences and expediting return to work?* [We are unaware who accesses these sessions due to the service being offered by an external provider.](#)
4. *If you don't currently use complementary therapy, would you consider using them if they could help reduce sickness absence days, help manage workplace stress and help rehab/recovery from MSK related sickness?* [N/A](#)
5. *Would you consider offering complementary therapy as a staff benefit at discounted rates or donations towards your hospital charity?* [Yes.](#)

6. *Would you consider employing a Complementary Therapist as part of your Occupational Health Team? If no, would you reconsider this if their qualification was gained via the NHS natural health school which is supported by NHS England? If we had clinical evidence that the therapy had a benefit/positive impact on staff health and wellbeing then it would be something we might consider. This would also be dependent on gaining funding for the post.*

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you Within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Foster
Chief Executive

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If you are unhappy 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: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF