

Information Governance

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Ref: FOI2017/4161

Date Received: 25th August 2017
Response Due: 25th September 2017

19th September 2017

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.

You asked:

VACANCIES

Request 1

- a) *Please confirm how many whole time equivalent physiotherapist and physiotherapy support worker vacancies were held in Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust as at 31 March 2017.*
- b) *Please confirm how many of the posts in Request 1a had been vacant for 3 months or more as at 31 March 2017.*

POSTS

Request 2:

Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) physiotherapists and physiotherapy support workers were employed by Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust on the 31 March 2017. (This should include any generic assistant or technical instructor posts that support physiotherapy service provision).

PATIENT DEMAND

Request 3:

Please confirm the number of new referrals (including patient self-referral) to physiotherapy services in Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, in the following financial years:

- 1 April 2016 to end of 31 March 2017
- 1 April 2015 to end of 31 March 2016
- 1 April 2014 to end of 31 March 2015

SPENDING

Request 4:

Please confirm how much was spent on physiotherapy agency/locum/temp staff in Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, in the following financial years:

- 1 April 2016 to end of 31 March 2017
- 1 April 2015 to end of 31 March 2016
- 1 April 2014 to end of 31 March 2015

Refusal Notice. The information that you have requested is exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act because it will take more than 18 hours to retrieve and extract the relevant information.

12. — (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Regulation 4(3) of the Fees Regulations states that a public authority can only take into account the costs it reasonably expects to incur in carrying out the following permitted activities in complying with the request:

- determining whether the information is held;
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

All public authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour.

This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded if it would require more than 18 hours work for all public authorities.

We are unable to provide this information within the allotted time, as it would mean inspecting a significant number of invoices to determine what the spend on physiotherapists was for the dates requested.

PRACTICE BASED LEARNING

Request 5:

Please identify the clinical areas within your physiotherapy services that provide placements for physiotherapy undergraduates in the last financial year (1 April 2016 to end of 31 March 2017).

MUSCULOSKELETAL (MSK) PATHWAY

Request 6:

- a) *Please confirm/deny whether Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust provides MSK services that include first contact physiotherapists in General Practice*

- b) *Please confirm/deny whether patients can self-refer to physiotherapy services within the MSK services provided by Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust*

Notes on terms used in Request 6

First contact physiotherapists in General Practice

- *When an individual contacts their GP they can be offered a consultation with the First contact physiotherapist instead of seeing the GP and without needing to see the GP first.*
- *First contact physiotherapists in General Practice provide assessment, diagnosis, exercise/ self-care advice, and if necessary, referral for investigations or treatment.*
- *They may work solely in General Practice (s) or they may be both part of the GP team and a physiotherapy team providing services in community or secondary care.*

- *First contact physiotherapists in General Practice have been given a variety of different job titles*

Self-referral to physiotherapy services

Self-referral is the term for a means of accessing physiotherapy services, where patients can arrange an appointment without needing to be referred by a health professional.

Public interest arguments

There is a clear public interest for disclosure of this information, in that disclosure will:

- *Further the understanding of and participation in the public debate of issues of the day, and will allow a more informed debate of issues under consideration by public bodies*
- *Promote accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them.*
- *Promote accountability and transparency in the spending of public money.*

- *Allow individuals to understand decisions made by public authorities affecting their lives and, in some cases, assisting individuals in challenging those decisions.*

Please see the attached completed table.

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