

Information Governance

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Email: FOI@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI2017/3951
Date Received: 9th May 2017
Response Due: 7th June 2017

7th Jun 2017 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.

I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Given the substantial impact of waiting times on patient welfare, and the implications of budget concerns for the future health of the NHS, I believe this request to be firmly in the public interest.

Could I please be provided with the following data:

1. A database (in **Excel-readable format**) of all cases in which patients were sent to private healthcare facilities from NHS facilities covered by this FOI address from 1/1/2014 until 1/5/2017. This should include:

- a. Incident or record number as per your own system
- b. The date of the referral
- c. The department from which the patient was referred
- d. The facility to which the patient was referred
- e. The reason or explanation given for the referral
- f. The cost of the referral
- g. If possible, I would appreciate the data in this form:

Date Department Facility referred to Cost of referral Reason given

*I would be interested in **any information held by your department regarding my request**, including any datasets from which this information is drawn.*

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.

To provide the data as requested would entail significant time, particularly e and f which would need to be individually and manually correlated. For f, the cost of the referral, this could be spread over a long time frame and multiple episodes of care.

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