



FOI REF: 23/590

5th April 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

Could you please tell me the number of patients referred by neurology to be tested using:

1) Lumbar puncture

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of patients who have been referred by neurology for a specific procedure. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients notes which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

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2) PET (if applicable)

As previously advised on FOI 23/498, the Trust does not provide a PET scan service. Patients are referred to University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust for PET Scans, therefore please refer this part of your request via the email below:

Email: uhsussex.foi@nhs.net

3) SPECT (if applicable)

As previously advised, the Trust does not hold this information as this Service is commissioned by the Local Integrated Care Board (ICB) who are NHS Sussex. Would you therefore please contact them direct for a response to this part of your request, contact details as follows:

Email: sxicb.foi1@nhs.net.

4) MRI/CT

The Trust does not centrally record the number of patients who have been referred by neurology for a specific procedure. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients notes which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net