



Health & Social Care
Information Centre

1 Trevelyan Square
Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 6AE

Tel: 0845 300 6016
Fax: 0113 254 7239

enquiries@hscic.gov.uk
www.hscic.gov.uk

4th March 2014

Our ref: NIC-248034-G5V7C

Dear Mr Booth,

Re: Information Request – Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000

I can confirm that the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) has considered your query dated the 5th February 2014.

Thank you for your request for information. I can confirm that the HSCIC does hold information falling within the terms of your request. The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days if additional time is required to consider the exemption. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case.

We do, of course, aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including in cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request for exempt information. In this case, however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. In your case we estimate that it will take up to an additional 20 working days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 31st March 2014. Please note, due to the high volume of requests being received by the HSCIC, if it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific exemptions which apply in relation to your request is/are: Section 43 - commercial interests.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you may request a review from a suitably qualified member of staff not involved in the initial query, via the enquiries@hscic.gov.uk e mail address or by post at the above postal address.

I will assume that your request to the organisation is now closed.

Yours sincerely,

James Smith
Higher Information Governance Officer

Further information about your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act is available from the Information Commissioner's Office, Wilmslow, Cheshire, and on The Information Commissioner's website www.ico.gov.uk.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre values customer feedback and would appreciate a moment of your time to respond to our Freedom of Information (FOI) Survey to let us know about your experience. Please access the survey through this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HSCIC_FOI_Feedback