

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Ref: DPT 19/20/033

Date: 24/05/2019

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act.

QUESTIONS

Spinal cord injured people may need in-patient or community care at any time in their lives.

Indeed, such care may be required many, many years after their original injury (and rehabilitation). Also, the primary reason why care is required might well be unrelated directly to the spinal cord injury.

For example, a spinal cord injured person may: have serious mental health issues which require in-patient treatment; be admitted to hospital following an accident or severe infection; or require ongoing care in the community.

Despite the above, you have advised that our bowel management freedom of information request is not applicable to your trust.

Please explain precisely why you believe that a spinal cord injured person could never require services from your trust in their lifetime.

RESPONSES

Devon Partnership NHS Trust is not responsible for the care of spinal injuries. However, if a patient with spinal injuries and Mental Health problems presented or was referred to Devon Partnership NHS Trust services, we would take a holistic approach when considering relevant support requirements; including how we can best manage bowel dysfunction alongside our Acute Trust and Primary Care colleagues.

If a patient with such injuries required inpatient services, steps would be taken to ensure their whole health needs were met, in line with Trust policies and wider NHS policy. If a patient required any of procedures specified in your original request during an inpatient stay with Devon Partnership NHS Trust; we would work alongside our Acute Trust colleagues to ensure that the best care possible is delivered and that the patients whole health needs were met.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Any appeal against this decision should be made in writing to:

Chief Information Officer,
Devon Partnership NHS Trust,
Prentice Building,
Langdon Hospital,
Dawlish,
EX7 0NR.

The decision will be reviewed and a response provided within 20 working days. If you remain unsatisfied by the decision a complaint may be made in writing to the Complaints/Litigation Administrator at the above address for the matter to be dealt with in accordance with the Trust complaints policy.

Alternatively, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Tel: 0303 123 1113. For further information please refer to www.ico.org.uk

We are monitoring how people making Freedom of Information requests are experiencing the process and would value your feedback in order to improve the service as necessary. If you wish to provide feedback please respond via the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BC6QXBM>