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Mr D Smith

Date 13 October 2017
Our Ref NA/CL/FOI 4461

Enquiries to Christine Law
Extension 27998
Direct Line 01592 647998
Email Fife-uhb.foirequestfife@nhs.net

Dear Mr Smith

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 4461
Disabled Facilities for Mental Health In-patients

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request which we received on 15 September 2017.

Question

I wish to know whether all mental health in-patients have access within their room or ward, whenever needed, to the following disabled facilities; and if not, the number of beds where patients do not have ready access at all times.

- 1) Wheelchair accessible toilets
- 2) Toilets at a suitable height for wheelchair users
- 3) Bars or hand grips in the toilets
- 4) Emergency cords in the toilets
- 5) Disabled showering facilities
- 6) Emergency cords beside beds
- 7) Automatic doors between beds and toilets
- 8) Automatic doors between beds and showering facilities
- 9) Hoists

You have previously refused a broader request on grounds on cost, therefore I have narrowed the scope of the request to make it easier to fulfil within the £600 limit.

Your lack of ability to respond is in some ways more revealing than a detailed answer. That you do not already have this information compiled in some form, and presumably therefore have not undertaken a thorough disability audit covering these questions, and hence would need to gather the information at such cost, suggests that there has been a significant lack of attention given to facilities for disabled patients, which was the concern underlying my original request.

Response

- NHS Fife – West Fife (Queen Margaret and Lynebank Hospitals)
(See attached)



Chair Tricia Marwick
Chief Executive Paul Hawkins
Fife NHS Board is the common name of Fife Health Board

- NHS Fife – Central Fife (Cameron, Randolph Wemyss, Whyteman's Brae and Glenrothes Hospitals).

1. No, but 2 toilets at ward entry large enough for accessibility. No bars / grab rails as classed as a ligature risk
2. Yes, no bars / grab rails as classed as a ligature risk
3. Bars / grab rails removed at refurbishment, not refitted as classed as a ligature risk
4. Only in shower / bathroom as ligature risk elsewhere
5. Yes
6. No, classed as a ligature risk. Nurse call system.
7. No, not required under accessibility
8. No, not required under accessibility
9. No

- NHS Fife – North East Fife (Stratheden Hospital)

1. All patients have access to DDA compliant toilets
2. All non-assisted toilets are DDA compliant
3. All non-assisted toilets are DDA compliant
4. Due to our anti-ligature policies no cords are installed, instead suitable call buttons etc are used
5. All patients have access to DDA compliant showering facilities
6. Due to our anti-ligature policies no cords are installed, instead suitable call buttons etc are used
7. There are no automatic doors within wards but there is unrestricted access to disabled facilities. Access doors to corridors etc are held open by magnetic hold backs only closing in the event of a fire. The very nature of a mental health facility precludes the use of automatic doors for nursing, safety, security and dignity reasons.
8. As item 7
9. All disabled patients who have been assessed as requiring the assistance of a hoist have access to the appropriate type of hoist.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01592 643355 ext 28977 or email fife-uhb.foirequestfife@nhs.net if we can be of further assistance.

If, however, you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request you can ask us to review the handling of your request. Please write to me specifying the reasons why you are seeking a review within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence. I shall arrange for a review to be carried out and a report made to the Chief Executive of NHS Fife who will respond to your request for a review.


You also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner after the immediate response from us or after our response to your request for a review but you have to do so within 6 months of our reply.

Contact details are below:

Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9DS
<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/>

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norma Aitken". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Norma Aitken
FOI Lead Officer, NHS Fife

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