



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Dr David E Ward

By email to: request-1118150-a420edf2@whatdotheyknow.com

15 May 2024

Dear Dr Ward,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1506268

Thank you for your request dated 16 April to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), a copy of which can be found in the accompanying annex.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC does not hold information relevant to your request as there is no legal or business requirement for it to collate it. However, you may wish to submit your request to the St George's, Epsom and St Helier Group as it may hold relevant information and contact details for the FOI team are available at:

[Freedom of information \(FOI\) at Epsom and St Helier hospitals | Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals \(epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk\)](https://www.sthelier.nhs.uk/foi).

If you are not satisfied with the handling of this request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review.

This should be sent to freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within two months of the date of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

Guidance on contacting the ICO can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us> and information about making a complaint can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Annex

From: Dr David E Ward request-1118150-a420edf2@whatdotheyknow.com

Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 9:34 PM

To: FreedomofInformation freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk

Subject: Freedom of Information request - Expenditure by St George's. Epsom and St Helier Trust (aka GESH) on defending claims made by Dr Usha Prasad

Dear DHSC,

I am a colleague and former fellow cardiologist at GESH and I continue to support Dr Usha Prasad throughout her egregious trials and tribulations after the Trust dismissed her in 2020.

Please provide the following information: -

1. A breakdown of the total costs to date incurred in defending the case Dr Prasad brought against your Trust for unfair dismissal.
2. When were the Executive Team (CEO, Ms Totterdell and Board Chair, Ms Gillian Norton) informed of and asked to endorse the decision to pursue Dr Prasad for £180k of costs ?
3. Which law firms were paid to act for Epsom-St Helier (and GESH after the unification of Epsom-St Helier with St George's NHS Trust) in this case against Dr Prasad?

I look forward to your prompt response because medical careers and patient safety are at risk while these questions remain unanswered.

Yours faithfully,

Dr David E Ward MD

Formerly Consultant Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist, St George's NHS Trust (1986-2016)