

Date: **21/04/2015**

Our reference: **FOIRQ2448**

Dear Ms Bond,

Please find below the outcome of your request for an internal review under the Freedom of Information Act for the above reference number.

This review was not completed within the 20 days recommended by the Freedom of Information Act. The department has been through a transitional period regarding staffing, and unfortunately this has resulted in a backlog of FOI requests. I apologise sincerely on behalf of the Trust for the delay in responding to this request for an internal review.

The Internal Review Process:

The review was conducted by the Head of Clinical Governance and Safety, who operates outside of the legal department.

The reviewer noted that we acknowledged your request within five working days of receiving it, and disclosed our response to you on 3rd February 2015; 22 working days after receipt. We apologise for not responding to you in the recommended 20 working days, laid down in the Freedom of Information Act.

Your request was not considered to be repeated or vexatious and the reviewer acknowledged that when we asked you for clarification, on 9th January 2015, you kindly provided this on the same day.

The reviewer also went on to verify that the information required for the response was held and located correctly, and that the relevant National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines were considered.

The Internal Review Outcome:

The reviewer concluded that the original response to your request was appropriate, albeit overdue by two days, as the Trust does not have a centrally held database of suspected Fabricated and Induced Illness and/or Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome.

The reviewer confirmed that an attempt to retrieve this information through individual social work records would exceed 18 hours. It is estimated that this process could take up to 41.7 hours. The reviewer confirmed that this information is therefore exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The internal review concludes that due to the extensive amount of time it would take to go through individual social work records we are, unfortunately, unable to provide the information you have requested.

If you are still not satisfied with our response, you also have the right to appeal the results of this Internal Review to the Information Commissioner.

I trust that the information provided is sufficient and helps to answer any concerns, questions or issues you may have.

If you should have any further queries related to this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please ensure that the above reference number is quoted on any correspondence.

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Yours sincerely

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