



**Ambulance Headquarters**

Bernicia House  
The Waterfront  
Goldcrest Way  
Newburn Riverside  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE15 8NY

Tel: 0191 430 2000  
www.neas.nhs.uk

**Our Ref: FOI.21.280**

Grace Pritchard

E-mail: request-808681-2215bd66@whatdotheyknow.com

17 December 2021

Dear Ms Pritchard

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act which was received on 19 November 2021. I can confirm that we hold part of the information you have requested. You asked the following questions, reproduced in **bold** below:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information on the number of staff impacted by long Covid under your trust.**

- **How many staff members were recorded to have had long Covid while working for your trust at any time in the period between March 2020 - September 2021?.**

The Trust cannot identify long Covid between Covid related absences.

- **What were the five longest periods in days that a member of staff took a leave of absence due to long Covid in the time period between March 2020 - September 2021?**

The Trust cannot identify long Covid between Covid related absences.

- **Could you state all leave of absences taken where long Covid was cited as the cause between March 2020 and September 2021.**

The Trust cannot identify long Covid between Covid related absences.

- **Does your trust offer any specialised support for staff members living with long Covid? If so could you please provide details of these services.**

Yes, The Trust has an in-house Occupational Health Service that provides Rapid Access Physiotherapy and Psychological Services, including Clinical Psychology and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) that staff can access as required. The Occupational Health Service also provides support via Specialist Occupational Health Nurses and Consultant Occupational Health Physician.

- **What plans, if any, are in place to improve the support available to staff members who are living with long Covid while working for your trust?**

The Trust is working closely with individual staff who have been diagnosed with Long-Covid as each person can have very differing needs. As above, access to Rapid Access Physiotherapy and Psychological Services is readily available and we have adopted an extended phased return to work process as well as successfully redeploying staff on both a short term and long-term basis. Moving forward, we hope to work more cohesively with Long Covid Clinics within our trust footprint to offer appropriate early intervention.

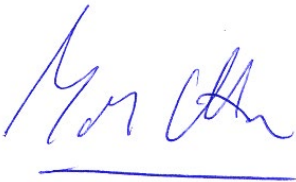
If you are not satisfied with the information we have provided, you can request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter, which will be carried out by Mr Paul Aitken-Fell, who is the Trust's Consultant Paramedic and is someone not involved with your original request.

If you wish to follow this route, please contact [audrey.turnbull@neas.nhs.uk](mailto:audrey.turnbull@neas.nhs.uk) who will commence the process on your behalf.

If you remain unhappy with the outcome of the review, you can ultimately complain to:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Mark Cotton  
**Freedom of Information Lead**