

matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's review process to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.A black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information of the sender.

PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 July 2018 21:04
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Questions re the 'Recall' of 2500 neurology patients

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

What exactly is the reason given for this recall? Was it prompted by RCP? Is it a problem with diagnosis, record keeping or is it simply down to cost of medication being prescribed?

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
[REDACTED]

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T: (028) 9504 5888
F: (028) 9056 5553
E: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

28 August 2018

Our ref: FOI/18433

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Neurology patient recall

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 23 July 2018.
Please find below the details you requested. I hope this information is helpful.

What exactly is the reason given for this recall?

Some concerns were raised regarding the care and treatment provided by Dr Watt to a number of patients. In order that Belfast Trust could obtain an expert opinion regarding Dr Watt's care and treatment, we asked the RCP to carry out an independent review. The recall was initiated following a recommendation in the RCP report that Belfast Trust should review the patients within Dr Watt's practice. Patients were invited to attend for a review appointment, in order to review their care and treatment and ensure they were receiving the best possible care and treatment. Belfast Trust recognises the anxiety created by the current situation and understands that this is a difficult and distressing time for patients as they seek assurance that they are receiving the best possible care and treatment.

You will appreciate that we have recalled many patients and our Neurology team worked extremely hard to ensure that every patient recalled was given the opportunity to be seen within the 12 week timeframe announced.

Was it prompted by RCP?

The recall was initiated following a recommendation in the RCP report that Belfast Trust should review the patients within Dr Watt's practice.

Is it a problem with diagnosis, record keeping or is it simply down to cost of medication being prescribed?

The RCP report contains personal information relating to the doctor, whose identity is known. Since disclosure of the contents of the report to yourself is not necessary to fulfil public interest considerations such as the need to ensure appropriate action in relation to current patients, Belfast Trust is not in a position to provide details contained within the report at this time. I would wish to confirm, however that the cost of medication being prescribed is not the reason for the review.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact [REDACTED] Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail: [REDACTED] within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided usually within 20 working days of receipt.

Should you still be dissatisfied with the outcome, you can proceed to the second review stage by contacting the Information Commissioner, The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF who will undertake an independent review. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's review process to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 July 2018 21:11
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Questions re the 'Recall' of 2500 neurology patients

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

What exactly is the reason given for this recall? Was it prompted by RCP? Is it a problem with diagnosis, record keeping or is it simply down to cost of medication being prescribed?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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E: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

28 August 2018

Our ref: FOI/18435

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Neurology patient recall

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 23 July 2018.
Please find below the details you requested. I hope this information is helpful.

What exactly is the reason given for this recall?

Some concerns were raised regarding the care and treatment provided by Dr Watt to a number of patients. In order that Belfast Trust could obtain an expert opinion regarding Dr Watt's care and treatment, we asked the RCP to carry out an independent review. The recall was initiated following a recommendation in the RCP report that Belfast Trust should review the patients within Dr Watt's practice. Patients were invited to attend for a review appointment, in order to review their care and treatment and ensure they were receiving the best possible care and treatment. Belfast Trust recognises the anxiety created by the current situation and understands that this is a difficult and distressing time for patients as they seek assurance that they will have received the best possible care and treatment.

You will appreciate that we have recalled many patients and our Neurology team worked extremely hard to ensure that every patient recalled was given the opportunity to be seen within the 12 week timeframe announced.

Was it prompted by RCP? Is it a problem with diagnosis, record keeping or is it simply down to cost of medication being prescribed?

The recall was initiated following a recommendation in the RCP report that Belfast Trust should review the patients within Dr Watt's practice.

The RCP report contains personal information relating to the doctor, whose identity is known. Since disclosure of the contents of the report to yourself is not necessary to fulfil public interest considerations such as the need to ensure appropriate action in relation to current patients, Belfast Trust is not in a position to provide details contained within the report at this time.

We would wish to confirm, however that the cost of medication being prescribed is not the reason for the review.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact [REDACTED] Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail: [REDACTED] within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided usually within 20 working days of receipt.

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If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2018 12:05
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Questions re the 'Recall' of 2500 neurology patients

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

What is total number overall of Dr Watt's Multiple Sclerosis patients? What number of these patients who have been reviewed by a Neurologist during this recall have had their diagnosis of RRMS rediagnosed as SPMS?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
[REDACTED]

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28 August 2018

Our ref: FOI/18438

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Neurology patient recall

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 23 July 2018.
Please find below the details you requested. I hope this information is helpful.

What is total number overall of Dr Watt's Multiple Sclerosis patients? What number of these patients who have been reviewed by a Neurologist during this recall have had their diagnosis of RRMS rediagnosed as SPMS?

Dr Watt had 681 patients attending as outpatients at the Belfast Trust prior to his restriction from clinical duties. Under section 36 of Freedom of Information Act 2000, Belfast Trust considers that responding to your question regarding the diagnosis of patients may prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs in relation to patients attending for appointments as part of the recall process, so is unable to make a response at this time.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact [REDACTED] Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail: [REDACTED] within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided usually within 20 working days of receipt.

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If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2018 12:19
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Questions re the 'Recall' of 2500 neurology patients

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

from the reviews carried out to date, exactly how many patients have been proven to have been mis-diagnosed?
What percentage of these are MS and Epilepsy patients?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

[REDACTED]
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F: (028) 9056 5553
E: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

28 August 2018

Our ref: FOI/18440

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Neurology recall

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 23 July 2018.
Please find below the details you requested. I hope this information is helpful.

from the reviews carried out to date, exactly how many patients have been proven to have been mis-diagnosed? What percentage of these are MS and Epilepsy patients?

Under section 36 of Freedom of Information Act 2000, Belfast Trust considers that responding to your question regarding the diagnosis of patients may prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs in relation to patients attending for appointments as part of the recall process, so is unable to make a response at this time

What percentage of these are MS and Epilepsy patients?

Under section 36 of Freedom of Information Act 2000, Belfast Trust considers that responding to your question regarding the diagnosis of patients may prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs in relation to patients attending for appointments as part of the recall process, so is unable to make a response at this time.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact [REDACTED] Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail:

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having gone through the Trust's review process to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 July 2018 19:13
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Questions re the 'Recall' of 2500 neurology patients

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

Can you please provide a breakdown of the percentage of patients prescribed either of the two 'highly effective DMDs' (Tysabri or Lemtrada) by neurologist in Northern Ireland?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

[REDACTED]

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F: (028) 9056 5553
E: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

28 August 2018

Our ref: FOI/18442

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Neurology patient recall

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 25 July 2018.
Please find below the details you requested. I hope this information is helpful.

Can you please provide a breakdown of the percentage of patients prescribed either of the two 'highly effective DMDs' (Tysabri or Lemtrada) by neurologist in Northern Ireland?

We can only supply information relating to Neurologists in Belfast Trust. We are unable to provide exact patient figures as we believe this could make patients personally identifiable. This information is exempt from release under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Years 2015/2016		
	No of patients prescribed Tysabri and % of total	No of patients prescribed Lemtrada and % of total
Dr 1	< 5 (4%)	0 (0%)
Dr 2	< 5 (4%)	< 5 (3%)
Dr 3	< 5 (13%)	< 5 (9%)
Dr 4	< 5 (9%)	< 5 (9%)
Dr 5	11 (48%)	< 5 (3%)
Dr 6	5 (22%)	27 (76%)

Years 2016/2017		
	No of patients prescribed Tysabri and % of total	No of patients prescribed Lemtrada and % of total
Dr 1	< 5 (2%)	0 (0%)
Dr 2	11 (32%)	< 5 (4%)
Dr 3	< 5 (9%)	< 5 (2%)
Dr 4	< 5 (12%)	12 (24%)
Dr 5	8 (24%)	8 (16%)
Dr 6	7 (21%)	27 (54%)

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact [REDACTED] Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail: [REDACTED] within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided usually within 20 working days of receipt.

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If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 July 2018 19:11
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Neurology Patient Recall

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

Why have blood patches been cited as a reason for the recall when Dr Watt had at least one other consultant sign off on the procedure?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

[REDACTED]

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E: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

28 August 2018

Our ref: FOI/18443

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Neurology patient recall

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 25 July 2018.
Please find below the details you requested. I hope this information is helpful.

Why have blood patches been cited as a reason for the recall when Dr Watt had at least one other consultant sign off on the procedure?

Concerns were initially raised in November 2016 by a GP and in relation to the care and treatment provided by Dr Watt to a small number of his patients. Belfast Trust immediately took steps to restrict Dr Watt's practice in the areas of his practice where concerns had been raised. Belfast Trust also ensured that the casenotes for this small number of patients were reviewed independently by experts external to Belfast Trust. In agreement with the Royal College of Physicians it was agreed that it would be important to have a review of a wider sample of Dr Watt's patients and this commenced in September 2017, before finally reporting in April 2018. The concerns identified regarding blood patching treatments were in relation to whether all these treatments were required. Blood patch procedures continued to be performed by Dr Watt, prior to his full clinical restrictions, subject to agreement that the procedure was clinically indicated.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact [REDACTED] Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail: [REDACTED] within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided usually within 20 working days of receipt.

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If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 July 2018 19:16
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Questions re the 'Recall' of 2500 neurology patients

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

Number of complaints made from members of the public by neurologist? Total number of internal disciplinary sanctions imposed on Trust neurologists in Northern Ireland?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
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28 August 2018

Our ref: FOI/18444

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Neurology patient recall

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 25 July 2018.
Please find below the details you requested. I hope this information is helpful.

Number of complaints made from members of the public by neurologist?

A total of 34 formal complaints were made against ALL neurologists who were employees of Belfast Trust across the time period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017.

Total number of internal disciplinary sanctions imposed on Trust neurologists in Northern Ireland?

Belfast Trust, as an employer, is unable to provide details regarding confidential disciplinary matters.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact [REDACTED] Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail: [REDACTED] within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided usually within 20 working days of receipt.

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If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 July 2018 19:20
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Questions re the 'Recall' of 2500 neurology patients

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

Number of complaints made from members of the public by neurologist? Total number of internal disciplinary sanctions imposed on Trust neurologists in Northern Ireland?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
[REDACTED]

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28 August 2018

Our ref: FOI/18445

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Neurology patient recall

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 25 July 2018.
Please find below the details you requested. I hope this information is helpful.

Number of complaints made from members of the public by neurologist?

A total of 34 formal complaints were made against ALL neurologists who were employees of Belfast Trust across the time period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017.

**Total number of internal disciplinary sanctions imposed on Trust
neurologists in Northern Ireland?**

Belfast Trust, as an employer, is unable to provide details regarding confidential disciplinary matters.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact [REDACTED] Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail: [REDACTED] within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided usually within 20 working days of receipt.

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If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PublicLiaison-SM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 August 2018 12:38
To: PublicLiaison-SM
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Dr M Watt Patient Recall -P

Dear Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

Since the patient recall of neurology patients, have you made a request to Dr M Watt or to anyone representing him (legal or otherwise) for a copy of his Private Medical Records pertaining to patients of his Private practice/clinics and how many times have you requested this information from Dr M Watt or anyone representing him.

Have you been given a reason(s) by Dr M Watt or anyone representing him (legal or otherwise) why a copy of his Private Medical Records pertaining to patients of his Private practice/clinics is not being provided to you.

Has Dr M Watt or to anyone representing him informed you they intend to provide you with a copy of his Private Medical Records pertaining to patients of his Private practice/clinics at a future date.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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