



Our Ref: MED-19-113(IR)

30 October 2019

Dear Ms Jeffrey

Freedom of Information Request – MED-19-113

Thank you for your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000, which was received by NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on 27 August 2019. I was sorry to hear that you were subsequently unhappy with the response provided to the request on 24 September 2019

Since receiving your e-mail on 2 October 2019 advising that you were unhappy with the response provided by the CCG, I have undertaken a full review of the FOI request. The aim of the review was to ascertain whether the information provided was adequate or whether further information should have been provided in our response.

As part of my review I have been through all correspondence relating to the request, including the previous response provided to you, and I have come to the conclusion that your complaint is not upheld. The rationale behind my conclusion is that although NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group does hold the requested information it does not hold a central list of contracts. CCGs hold many types of contracts and therefore a central list of clinical and non-clinical contracts is not held, and to collate one would take significantly longer than the timeframe stipulated by the Act, as evidenced in our initial response.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, exemptions can be applied to final responses to requestors in certain circumstances. In this instance, the CCG applied an exemption under Section 12 of the Act. This exemption applies when a CCG holds the requested information but that it would exceed the appropriate time limit as specified in the Freedom of Information Act to locate retrieve and extract the information for a formal response. As advised in our formal response to you on 24 September 2019, the appropriate time limit is specified in the Act and set at £450 for 18 staff hours.

We hope that this has now dealt with your request for information satisfactorily, however, should you remain dissatisfied, you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner provides full and detailed guidance on the Freedom of Information Act, and on when and how to complain.



Please find below the link to their website page and their helpline number.

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. An anonymised version of our response will therefore be posted on our website.

If you have any queries regarding the above letter, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a diagonal stroke.

Stuart Jeffery
Deputy Managing Director
NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group

