



Department
of Health

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
G18, Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

www.gov.uk

A.E

request-430428-8e16cca9@whatdotheyknow.com

21 September 2017

Dear AE

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1097507

Thank you for your request dated 11 September 2017 in which you asked the Department of Health (DH):

*"Dear Department of Health,
please confirm the DoH policy on recognition of private diagnoses. For the avoidance of doubt, this does *not* refer to any condition that the DoH disputes to exist for any reason, *nor* does it refer to any specific follow-up care or treatment that a private practitioner may recommend in association with the diagnosis, that the DoH does not see as a valid or efficacious treatment. It does include all conditions, whether they be physical or mental health, mental health including neurodevelopmental disorders as they come under that umbrella department.*

It does include conditions which may be in diagnostic manuals, but under a slightly different name or definition than current practice recognises (with associated research and/or evidence base), due to evolution of diagnostic manuals over time. If that complicates the question too much, please provide the general policy along with any exclusions and the reason for them.

Please confirm whether the following are the defining policies and provide sources to others that may override them if this is the case:

<http://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/2572.aspx?CategoryID=96SubCategoryID=226>

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_096576.pdf

Private consultations

If you've had a private consultation for tests and diagnosis, you can still have treatment on the NHS. Your position on the NHS waiting list should be the same as if your original consultation was on the NHS.

Finally, please confirm what power clinicians have, if any, as regards personal professional opinion, to override any policies on recognition of private diagnoses and for their opinion to inform departmental response and provide reason for this to be allowed.

Yours faithfully,

A.E. "

Please note, under section 8(1) of FOIA, a request for information must comply with three requirements. It must:

- (a) be in writing,
- (b) state the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence, and
- (c) describes the information requested.

After initial consideration, this request appears to comply with requirements (a) and (c) but it does not comply with requirement (b) because you have not provided your full name. As your request is not valid under FOIA, I am not obliged to process your request. I would like to take this opportunity to recommend that any future FOI submissions adhere to Section 8 of the FOIA.

To enable us to meet your request, please resubmit your application including your real name. This should normally include your first name or a title (e.g. Miss or Dr) as well as your surname.

We will consider your resubmitted request upon receipt as long as it meets the requirements stated above. You will then receive a response from us within the statutory timescale of 20 working days. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a clarified request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Edward Franklyn

Freedom of Information Officer
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