

Our Ref: FOI 679

17 September 2015

David Smith

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Dear Mr Smith

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request dated 03 September 2015, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Under section 1(1) (a), I can confirm that the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) holds the requested information, and (b), is providing it as follows.

Question 1 – Please can you confirm (and provide a copy of the document if applicable), if there is a locally enhanced service payment to GP practices for running warfarin/INR clinics or D-Dimer testing?

Somerset CCG commissions an anticoagulation monitoring service from all 75 Somerset GP practices. 73 of these practices provide the Level 4 service, one provides the Level 3 service, and one the old Level 4 service. Please find attached the service specifications.

Question 2 – Please provide a list of the practices which have taken up this initiative and the number of patients by practice this concerns.

Please find attached a list of Somerset GP practices with the number of patients seen by each practice in the latest quarter available, April – June 2015.

Application of Section 40 Exemption

Where very small numbers of individuals have particular procedures at a surgery there could be the potential of identification and as such is considered to be confidential personal information. We have taken the approach of providing a response with 'less than 5' where numbers of patients seen at a practice are very small during the reported period.

One of the conditions listed in section 40 (3) (a) (i), is where the disclosure of the information would contravene any of the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). In order to rely on the exemption provided by section 40, the information being requested must constitute the personal data as defined by section 1 of the DPA. It defines personal data as:

“...data which relate to a living individual who can be identified from those data, or from those data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller, and includes any expression of opinion about the individual and any indication of the intention of the data controller or any other person in respect of the individual.”

After due consideration given to this matter, we therefore decline to disclose the exact number of patients seen in the period at individual surgeries where the number of patients involved is fewer than 5, as it relates to the personal information of individuals who may potentially be identifiable from the data. Disclosure of this information would therefore be in contravention of specific DPA principles. We have applied the exemption under sections 40 (2) and 40 (3) (a) (i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If you would like further detail as to our analysis of the principles of the DPA that would be contravened by disclosure, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Appeal

If you have any further queries, require any clarification, or have any concerns regarding the way in which your request has been handled and/or to request an internal review, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you remain dissatisfied, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner under section 50 of the Act. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

**Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
Freedom of Information Team**

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