

2 September 2016

Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London SE1 8UG

T: 020 3747 0000  
E: [nhsi.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:nhsi.enquiries@nhs.net)  
W: [improvement.nhs.uk](http://improvement.nhs.uk)

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**By email**  
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Dear ██████████

**Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”)**

I refer to your email of **8 July 2016** in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement.

**Your request**

You made the following request:

*“What is the % cost of service to Trust Operating expenditure of the 32 Hospitals that participated in the Carter Operation productivity review 2016 from which the calculated mean is 1.6% and the spread 1.1 – 2.4%? If hospitals are required to be anonymised please indicate type of hospital (teaching/district general) and if this is a consolidated network. Alternatively type of hospital and annual volume of samples.*

*Please describe what Pathology budget items were included and excluded from the calculation of the ‘% cost of service to Trust Operating expenditure’ “*

**Decision**

NHS Improvement holds some of the information that you have requested. Your request asks for information which is held by the Carter programme team currently in the Department of Health. This team will form part of NHS Improvement as part of the new Operational Productivity Directorate and as such, NHS Improvement has gathered the requested information.

NHS Improvement has decided to release all of the information that it holds as set out below.

**What is the % cost of service to Trust Operating expenditure of the 32 Hospitals that participated in the Carter Operation productivity review 2016 from which the calculated mean is 1.6% and the spread 1.1 - 2.4%? If hospitals are required to be anonymised please indicate type of hospital (teaching/district general) and if this is a consolidated network. Alternatively type of hospital and annual volume of samples.**

The Carter Programme team holds some information relevant to your request. The team worked with 22 trusts at the time to establish the calculated mean of 1.6%. Please see the attached raw, anonymised trust data which shows the 22 individual acute pathology costs as a proportion of trust operating expenditure. The Carter Programme team approached all 32 trusts from the Carter cohort to submit their data, however they could only measure 22 trusts consistently. The data from the 22 trusts was pulled together and calculated with trusts names anonymised.

**Please describe what Pathology budget items were included and excluded from the calculation of the '% cost of service to Trust Operating expenditure'.**

As part of the work with Lord Carter to gather evidence for his final report, the Department of Health wrote out to all 136 acute trusts in November 2015, as part of their wider Model Hospital data pack. This data on pathology was sourced from a Carter team survey of the cohort of 32 acute trusts (Pathology costs) and trusts' annual financial accounts (Operating Expenditure). The pack set out what data was included and excluded for their measurement of what a productive pathology service looks like based on the survey of the 32 cohort. This list included:

**Data are sourced from:**

- finished consultant episodes by type as at 2014/15
- reference cost data and volumes as at 2013/14
- electronic staff record data as at October 2014

**Excluded from the metrics are the costs and workforce associated with:**

- consultants and other medical staff
- blood and blood products
- molecular and genetic departments
- phlebotomy
- research

- infection control

The Carter Programme team are now in the process of collecting new trust-level pathology data across all 136 acute trusts which will then be available via the Model Hospital portal this autumn. This will give a more detailed and consistent picture of what a good pathology service looks like. This data will also be part of the work we are doing to support trusts and STPs to consolidate their pathology services.

HSCIC has also recently written out to trusts to ask for more information on which laboratory tests they provide. This will help ensure that we as a system are collecting trust-level data in a consistent and comparable way.

### **Review rights**

If you consider that your request for information has not been properly handled or if you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within NHS Improvement of the issue or the decision. A senior member of NHS Improvement's staff, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to FOI Request Reviews, NHS Improvement, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to [nhsi.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nhsi.foi@nhs.net).

### **Publication**

Please note that this letter and the attached information will shortly be published on our website. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the FOI Act is disclosed to the public at large. We will, of course, remove your personal information (e.g. your name and contact details) from the version of the letter published on our website to protect your personal information from general disclosure.

Yours sincerely,



**John Warrington**  
Deputy Director  
Productivity & Efficiency Division