

19 April 2017

Wellington House
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London SE1 8UG

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E: nhsi.enquiries@nhs.net
W: improvement.nhs.uk

By email

Dear [REDACTED]

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

I refer to your email of 23 March in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement. Since 1 April 2016, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority (“NHS TDA”) are operating as an integrated organisation known as NHS Improvement. For the purposes of this decision, NHS Improvement means Monitor and the NHS TDA.

Your request

Further to your request of 4 February (a copy of which is attached as an annex), to which we responded, you made the following request on 23 March:

“1. I request the planned date by which the information is expected to have been researched? (For clarification - “Which Trusts do not currently meet the 1.6% cost of service to Trust operating expenditure target as set out by the report 2016? Which Trusts have been identified as not currently achieving the Acute Pathology Model Hospital model?”)
2. I request the planned date of publication of this information (this can be month and year).
3. I request the NHSI website location where the published data can be accessed once published.”

Decision

NHS Improvement does not hold the information that you have requested.

As explained in response to your previous request, NHS Improvement has collected information about demand and input cost for pathology across the country. However, our review of the information gathered has found that the reliability and quality of the data is open to question so we do not have plans to make this publicly available although we will be sharing it with NHS providers via the Model Hospital. We are taking steps to address the

data quality issues through the development of a single pathology test list with NHS Digital which will deliver directly comparable data, which in time, may be suitable for wider publication. We estimate that the single test list will be implemented in the autumn and we can begin collecting monthly data thereafter. We would expect to have high quality data for benchmarking after 12 months.

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.

Publication

Please note that this letter 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,



Andy Howlett

Clinical Productivity Operations Director

Annex

Following on from Lord Carter's Pathology Report and in turn Efficiency report, please can you provide information on the following questions.

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(1) Which Trusts do not currently meet the 1.6% cost of service to Trust operating expenditure target as set out by the report 2016?

Which Trusts have been identified as not currently achieving the Acute Pathology Model Hospital model?

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We are aware that this query was put to you through a request under the FOI Act to which you replied on 18 May 2016, and that this answer is published on your website. However, this historical reply would not answer the above query/

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For absolute clarity, our request under the FOI Act is specifically whether this information is now known to the agency at February 2017.

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(2) As a second part of this request under the FOI Act, if your answer is that NHS Improvement does not hold this data (on which NHS Trusts do not currently meet the 1.6% cost of service to Trust operating expenditure) at February 2017, then is there a target date by which NHS Improvement will have access to this data?