

Information Governance

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6 November 2017

Reference no. 17180233

Dear

Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email of 18 October, making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

Request:

For the financial year 2016-17, including to date, please provide details for all consultancy services the Trust has used.

Please could you itemise each supplier and the total fees they received.

Response:

The Trust is unable to comply with this area of your request as to do so would require the Trust to exceed the appropriate limit. The Trust would have to manually review 1700 invoices in order to collate the information you require. To provide the information requested would involve from 1 to 5 minutes per invoice, which would involve a minimum of 28 hours work. The appropriate limit set in regulation by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act is 18 hours.

The Trust has also applied section 43 to this request. The Trust has not disclosed this information as the Trust would not be able to obtain best value in tendering, negotiating and contracting for these services, and there would be likely to be prejudice to the commercial interest of the Trust and providers of such services as a result.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so

within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for FoI Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance