

**Information Governance**

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20 March 2019  
Reference no. 18190447

Dear

**Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act**

Thank you for your email of 25th February 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:**

Parliament is likely to have draft legislation presented to it in coming months calling for a change in the law to allow, assisted suicide and or euthanasia – sometimes referred to as “assisted dying”. In Oregon and Washington, two of the US states that have legalised assisted suicide, there have been documented cases of those with terminal illnesses being refused life-saving, or life-extending medication, while offered the drugs to kill themselves. In these cases, the high cost of treatment was given as a reason for the denial of medication.

Please can you provide me with a copy of, or details of the assessment that your organisation has carried out on the impact of changing the law to allow assisted suicide or euthanasia, in particular, I am keen to see how this will impact the following:

- a) A possible reduction, or redeployment of clinical staff away from palliative care?
- b) Any possible financial savings?
- c) Figures on the numbers of people who might opt to end their lives this way?
- d) Any assessment of how this will impact on your organisation's suicide reduction plan?
- e) Any assessment of how this will impact on the mental health of your staff?
- f) Any assessment of additional costs associated with possible litigation against both medical staff and your organisation?

Response:

The Trust holds no information in relation to this request.

If you are concerned 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