

Ref. No: 1626
Date: 25/03/25
Subject: Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
adopting FDP.

REQUEST

Dear Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, This is a Freedom of Information request for information relating to the letter this summer from Dame Emily Lawson and Vin Diwaker, to all trust executives and COOs, asking them to confirm “that [they] plan to adopt the NHS FDP in the next two years”.

Source: <https://www.digitalhealth.net/2024/08/nhs-england-says-trusts-must-start-using-fdp-within-two-years/>

I would like to see all emails, documents, attachments, and any other forms of response relating to this request between Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and the two senior NHS officials.

It is public information that you have been asked to inform the NHS when you “envisage adopting already available nationally commissioned local Products”.

I would like to know when specifically you plan to start adopting the FDP and who you are naming as lead (as is requested in the letter)?

I would also like to know what your plans are for how you will maximise the benefits of the Federated Data Platform to deliver better joined-up care for their patients within the next two years (again, asked of you in the above mentioned letter)?

RESPONSE

Section 12 of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the request. The relevant section states:

12. (1) - Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

where the appropriate limit is equal to 18 hours of staff time as set by the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004*

In determining the time limit, the Trust can only take into account

- determining whether the information is held;
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

In order to determine whether the information is held in respect of your request, the Trust would need to review all emails, documents, attachments, and any other forms of response relating to this request between Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and the two senior NHS officials. This request is very large and will be more than the time allowed to answer this request.

A simple report cannot be produced.

Calculation - Across the Trust there are approximately 10400 staff and all emails would need to be checked from the 29th September 2024 to today's date. If it took one hour to obtain and review each staff member, the total time for determining whether the information is held and retrieving this information would equal 10400 hours¹

Advice and Assistance

Under section 16 of the FOIA, advice and assistance should be provided to allow the request to come under the appropriate limit by scaling or modifying the request.

Unable to narrow

However, as the information is not readily available and the number of staff emails to check so large, it would not be easy to scale down the request in this instance. It would not be possible to scale the request to one month as this would still exceed the time limit.

Unfortunately, the Trust is unable to provide further assistance in this instance

¹ 10400 staff * 60 minute to review each event = 624000 minutes
624000 minutes = 10400 hours,

In respect of when we plan to start adopting the FDP and who we are naming as lead The trust currently has not appointed a lead but will be doing so in the future.