

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-075

27 January 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

Thank you for publishing your data on expenditure over £25,000. However, I notice that your spend data is in pdf format, which is not machine readable and so cannot be used for data analysis. Under 2.26 of Guidance for publishing spend (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662332/guidance_for_publishing_spend.pdf) publishers are to publish in a CSV file format rather than a PDF format.

Therefore, I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for all transactions over £25,000 from September. Please provide the spend data in the CSV format which is machine readable. As a minimum, please make sure to include the date, value and recipient of each transaction. Please also provide details on the procurement category of each transaction if you have it.

Your team may be interested in the guidance on producing spending data, which specifies that the data must be published in a machine readable format:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-publishing-spend-over-25000>. This letter makes it clear that this guidance applies to the NHS: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216668/dh_119742.pdf.

Please note that it is permissible to request data in a specified format under the terms of the FOI Act: <https://www.journalism.co.uk/news/court-rules-freedom-of-information-requests-can-specify-file-format/s2/a557580/>.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act. I await your response within 20 working days. Please be aware that I will continue to submit FOI requests to you on a monthly basis until all your spending data is

published in a machine-readable format.

We do hold the requested information; however, under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act the Trust is exempt from disclosing the information as it is intended for future publication.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust