

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-784

21 October 2024

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

I am seeking information on 'Independent Investigations' please as a member of the public I seek information from your trust. NHS England has advised through a similar FOI that they only hold data directly related to NHS England cases not individual trusts so have advised me to make FOI to individual trusts for the information they would not hold. So, can you kindly review my Freedom of Information request for information which I am seeking as a member of the public.

The following questions I would like you to answer please under 'Freedom of Information Act'.

Since 2014 how many independent investigations were sanctioned by your trust and how many of those sanctioned were allocated to specifically to an organisation called 'NICHE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CONSULTING LIMITED', please?

How many investigations carried out by Niche since start of 2014 were 'Paediatric' cases please?

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Please note: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by *. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

Please can you tell me the total trust spend on NICHE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CONSULTING LIMITED by financial year from 2014 to date. For the current financial year please just give me the total spend so far. NHS England has provided a 10-year breakdown only for NHS England held data. They have stated this doesn't include individual trusts as each one runs as their own entity so I must contact the trust myself making a freedom of information request seeking data from them. So, I seek data specific to your trust please.

£13349.34

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**