

Our Ref: 131/2023
JANUARY 2023

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am conducting a study of the emergency preparedness of NHS Acute Trusts in England. I am using the emergency and disaster management module of the Hospital Safety Index checklist of the World Health Organisation. The study is part of an MSc in Crisis & Disaster Management at the University of Portsmouth.

Following a recent Information Commissioner's decision, given here:

[Report attached](#)

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fico.org.uk%2Fmedia%2Faction-weve-taken%2Fdecision-notices%2F2023%2F4023596%2Fic-204648-c9l6.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cadam.tingle%40nhs.net%7C372bc3648927431faabd08db26bd049b%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638146365480221546%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=am2BsvLpkFNwr3uuWNUh%2Bm3Kul4PLM%2Fbjl92Nx9%2BQ0%3D&reserved=0>

I am writing regarding my final request for information about the Trust's EPRR as part of my study. I would prefer to obtain this information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in order to ensure that all the information is cleared by the Trust to be made publicly available. However, if you wish I am happy to discuss my request directly. My e-mail address is up2076128@myport.ac.uk .

Please note that this is a different request from my previous requests: "EPRR Coordination of emergency and disaster management activities", "EPRR Planning", "EPRR Communication and information management", "EPRR Human Resources" and "EPRR Logistics". Please also note I am making this request more than 60 working days after my request "EPRR Logistics".

My final request is given below:

I am writing to request the following information. This information relates to the NHS England Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Framework in general and section 10, "Cycle of preparedness", in particular.

Please note that much of the information requested is only records of the existence of current procedures, training, resources and tests, and not the contents of the procedures, training, resources and tests themselves.

For clarity, to minimise the cost of my request and to prevent the disclosure of any sensitive information, I have enumerated the information I am requesting and specified how it could be provided.

If you do not hold some of this information then I ask you to confirm explicitly that you do not hold

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it.

Given the potentially sensitive nature of this information, I ask you to redact any exempt information instead of refusing disclosure. This would be in accordance with guidance on best practice from the Information Commissioner's Office.

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Patient care and support services

Continuity of essential clinical support services

1. Any record of whether procedures exist to ensure operational continuity of essential clinical support or ancillary services (e.g. laboratory, radiology, pharmacy) during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes. Although procedures are being refreshed as part of an update on Business Continuity within the Trust.

2. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes. Although again will be refreshed as part of the update on Business Continuity within the Trust.

3. Any record of whether resources to implement the above procedures can be mobilized at all times. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

Expansion of usable space for mass casualty incidents

4. Any record of whether procedures and resources exist to expand space and provide access to extra beds in mass casualty incidents. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes. A large amount of work has been undertaken to identify all space within the Trust where chairs and beds can be sited in an emergency.

5. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

No. Training is yet to be rolled out in respect of additional clinical space.

6. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)

'Live test'. Additional spaces were used in response to the recent ambulance strikes (December 2022 and January 2023).

Triage for major emergencies and disasters

7. Any record of whether space has been designated and procedures exist to carry out triage during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

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Yes.

8. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Not known.

9. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)

Not known.

Triage tags for mass casualty incidents

10. Any record the existence of triage tags for mass casualty incidents. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes. Work also recently undertaken with Police on their identification requirements.

System for referral, transfer and reception of patients

11. Any record of whether procedures exist for the reception, referral and transfer of patients to and from other health facilities within and outside the geographical area where the hospital is located during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes. Trust has purchased the 'Smart Evacuation System' for patient tracking. The kit and training is to be rolled out in the coming months.

12. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

See above – question 11.

13. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)

See above – question 11.

Infection surveillance, prevention and control procedures

14. Any record of whether procedures exist for infection prevention and control during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

Normal controls for infection prevention and control apply in emergency situations.

The Trust has a pandemic flu plan.

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15. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

IPC principles remain the same in all scenarios so we advise on PPE to wear which only changes based on the pathogen we face. In a disaster/emergency - we expect the same standards.

These are covered in SET training – so records are available for all relevant staff (held by Education/Training).

16. Any record of whether resources are available for implementation of the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes.

Procurement support the requirements for obtaining additional PPE.

Psychosocial services

17. Any record of whether procedures exist for provision of psychosocial support, assessment and treatment services to patients, families and staff during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes. Psychological support is a commissioned service. Normal procedures are applied in emergency situations.

18. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes. Psychological support is a commissioned service. Normal procedures are applied in emergency situations.

19. Any record of whether resources are available for implementation of the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)

Yes. Psychological support is a commissioned service. Normal procedures are applied in emergency situations.