

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

How much in total was spent by maternity departments you are responsible for, for each calendar year dating back to 2016? Including all staffing, equipment and other costs. Please include obstetrics, midwifery services, community maternity services, neonatal services and the appropriate share of overheads and estates recharges.

The preference is for calendar years, but if the information is more easily recovered by financial years and converting to calendar years would make the request exceed the Section 12 cost limit, delivering the data by financial year is fine thanks.

Likewise, if it would exceed the Section 12 cost limit to extract data beyond a certain year, providing data for as many years as would not exceed the limit would also be fine.

Response

The Trust is unable to comply with this request as it would exceed the appropriate cost limit set out under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request asks for total expenditure relating to maternity services for each year dating back to 2016, including:

- Obstetrics
- Midwifery services
- Community maternity services
- Neonatal services
- A proportion of overheads and estates recharges

The Trust does not hold this information in a single centrally reportable dataset.

To provide the information requested would require the Trust to:

- Identify and extract historic cost centre data relating to maternity services across multiple organisational structures over a number of years;
- Review both pay and non-pay expenditure across obstetrics, midwifery, community maternity and neonatal services;
- Determine and apply the appropriate share of corporate overhead and estates recharge allocations for each year;
- Reconcile financial data where cost centre structures and reporting arrangements have changed over time.

As this information is not held in the format requested, the Trust would be required to manually interrogate and reconcile financial records across multiple financial years in order to produce the totals requested. This process would require substantial manual analysis of historic finance records and would exceed the statutory cost limit of 18 staff hours (£450) set out under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Trust is therefore refusing this request under Section 12(1).

Section 16 – Advice and Assistance

In accordance with our duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Trust may be able to provide information within the cost limit if the scope of the request is reduced.

You may wish to consider refining your request, for example by:

- Requesting information relating to staffing costs only or equipment costs only, rather than all categories of expenditure plus
- Limiting the request to a shorter timeframe, for example the most recent financial year or a smaller number of years.

If you would like to refine your request, please let us know and we will be happy to assist.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to d.wraith@nhs.net.

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

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