

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 12 November 2024

Public Authority: Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Address: Williams Avenue
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 2JY

Request:

The complainant requested the following information from Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust on 8 August 2024:

"I am making a Freedom of Information Request for both ICD10 first diagnosis discharge codes and cases, and OPCS4 primary procedure codes and cases, recorded per individual hospital in your health authority. I hope you can help me with obtaining the following data. Any information must be totally anonymised; however, I am requesting the name or the postcode of each hospital as it pertains to the data set.

I am requesting the data for the last five calendar years, i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23.

The suggested data format is in columns:

1. Hospital name or postcode
2. Primary diagnosis ICD-10 3/4 or 5 digits (The ICD 10 data comprises the range A000 to Q999)
3. Number of cases
4. Years

The other data set deals with procedures/surgery:

1. Hospital name or postcode
2. OPCS4: Primary procedure to 4 or more digits
3. Number of cases
4. Years

I hope it is possible to get this data. We already have identical datasets for most of Europe.”

Commissioner’s Decision:

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

Steps:

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Right of Appeal:

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**