

4 August 2017

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██████████  
**By email**  
████████████████████

Dear ██████████

### **Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”)**

I refer to your email of **10 July 2017** in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement. Since 1 April 2016, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA) are operating as an integrated organisation known as NHS Improvement. For the purposes of this decision, NHS Improvement means Monitor and the TDA.

### **Your request**

You made the following request:

*“I would like to request any data you have on the amount spent by NHS organisations on management consultants in the most recent year and any historical data back to 2007.*

*In particular any amount spent by NHS Improvement centrally or if you hold any data on STPs spend on management consultancies.”*

### **Decision**

NHS Improvement holds some of the information that you have requested.

NHS Improvement has decided to withhold all of the information that it holds on the basis of the applicability of the exemptions in section 21 of the FOI Act, as explained in detail below.

#### 1) Provider spend

NHS Improvement does hold data on the amount spent by NHS organisations on management consultants.

This information is already in the public domain. Trusts themselves publish their actual spend on management consultants in their annual accounts. This information is available on each trust’s website. In addition, under the requirement for NHS organisations to publish

expenditure over £25,000, each trust's website also includes expenditure on management consultancy.

As such, we are withholding the information we hold on the basis of the applicability of the exemption in section 21 of the FOI Act.

In addition, consultancy approvals for trust spend above £50,000 that NHS Improvement has given in the past are currently in the process of being finalised for publication. NHS Improvement intends to publish this information shortly. As such, we are withholding the information we hold on the basis of the applicability of the exemption in section 22 of the FOI Act.

## 2) NHS Improvement spend

NHS Improvement does hold data on the amount spent centrally by NHS Improvement on management consultancies. NHS Improvement (and previously Monitor and TDA) spend over £25k is published on our website. High level detail of NHS Improvement's spend is published in our annual accounts and is listed as consultancy and/or professional services.

## 3) STP spend

NHS Improvement does not hold data which shows STP spend on management consultancies. We may hold data on STP spend where a lead organisation comes through the consultancy approval process described above, however this data would not provide us with clear information about STP spend on management consultants.

### **Section 21 (information accessible to applicant by other means)**

High level information on provider sector spend is published via annual accounts and in listings of expenditure above £25,000. These can be accessed on each trust's website.

The information we hold regarding NHS Improvement spend on management consultancy is published as part of the annual accounts for the NHS Trust Development Authority and Monitor on our website.

### **Section 22 (information intended for future publication)**

Section 22 provides that information is exempt information if:

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or some other person, at some future date (whether determined or not);
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made; and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a) above.

NHS Improvement intends to publish all of its approvals for consultancy spend over £50,000 that it has given from the start of the controls on consultancy in June 2015. NHS Improvement is currently in the process of finalising the relevant data.

Please note that NHS foundation trusts, NHS trusts, and the Department of Health are subject to the FOI Act and as such it is open to you to seek information directly from them. They will need to consider whether information can properly be provided by them in response to any such requests within the terms of the FOI Act.

### **Review rights**

If you consider that your request for information has not been properly handled or if you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within NHS Improvement of the issue or the decision. A senior member of NHS Improvement's staff, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to FOI Request Reviews, NHS Improvement, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to [nhsi.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nhsi.foi@nhs.net).

### **Publication**

Please note that this letter will shortly be published on our website. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the FOI Act is disclosed to the public at large. We will, of course, remove your personal information (e.g. your name and contact details) from the version of the letter published on our website to protect your personal information from general disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Cochrane". Below the signature is a horizontal line that ends in a small arrowhead pointing to the right.

**Murray Cochrane**  
**Resources – Head of Resources, Programmes and Co-ordination**