

30 January 2018

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

Dear ██████████

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

I refer to your email of 3 January 2018 in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement. Since 1 April 2016, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority have been 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 requested the following information:

*“I was hoping you would be able to provide me with the average cost to the NHS of performing one, uncomplicated MVD surgery, including the time the patient spends in hospital, the time spent by the theatre staff performing the operation and so forth.”*

### **Decision**

NHS Improvement do not hold the information requested.

However, we have provided the information below by way of assistance.

### **The average cost to the NHS of performing one, uncomplicated MVD surgery**

NHS Improvement does not collect data at a procedure level. We collect and publish cost data at a Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) level, in line with guidance published annually as part of our [Approved Costing Guidance](#).

- A HRG is a standard grouping of clinically similar treatments which use common levels of healthcare resource. HRGs help organisations to understand their activity in terms of the types of patients they care for and the treatments they undertake.
- Reference costs are the average cost to the NHS of providing a defined service in a given year at a HRG level. For information on what is available publically see [reference cost data 2016/17](#) (previous years information is available at [Older reference cost publications](#)).

In order to identify the cost of a therapy or procedure, you would first need to identify the HRG. In order to complete this you would need to identify the relevant diagnosis codes (ICD-10) and procedure codes (OPCS codes) and then identify the relevant HRG/s. You can then use this information to identify the cost (in the reference cost data – see above) or the price paid (in the [National tariff 2017/19](#)). Given the grouping process, other types of treatment may also be grouped to the same HRG. There will be differences between years due to changes in how activity is coded (classification of procedures and diagnosis) and changes in costing processes.

### Patient waiting time and operating times

Please note, as reference costs is an average at a HRG level, it does not include details on how much time is spent on wards, theatres and so forth. We are currently moving towards patient-level costing from 2018/19 (for more information see [Transforming patient-level costing](#)) which will collect some of this information, however this will not be in place until 2018/19 for acute inpatient activity and not collected or available until 2019.

You may find it beneficial to contact some larger trusts which undertake the relevant activity to see if they are able to provide you with some of the information you need.

A list of NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts and their contact information can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories/pages/nhstrustlisting.aspx>

### 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,

*DONNA*

**Donna Pannell**

Costing Improvements Manager, Pricing