

06 April 2018

Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

T: 020 3747 0000
E: nhsi.enquiries@nhs.net
W: improvement.nhs.uk

██████████
By email
██

Dear ██████████

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

I refer to your email of 8 March 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 made the following request:

“I’m requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act. Please could you acknowledge receipt of this request and I look forward to your response within 20 working days, as stipulated by the act.

- 1. Please send the full report based on analysis of pathology data from acute NHS trusts which was used to inform NHSI in its plan to create 29 pathology networks across England. The analysis, and subsequent, report was delivered with the help of LTS.*
- 2. Please confirm the amount paid to LTS for its work on this project.”*

Decision

NHS Improvement holds some of the information that you have requested and has applied section 21 to the information it holds, as it is readily available in the public domain.

Question 1

Section 21 provides an exemption from the right to know if the information requested is reasonably accessible to the applicant through other means. This is an absolute exemption which means there is no requirement to carry out a public interest test if the requested information is exempt.

We have published the report based on analysis of pathology data from acute NHS trusts which was used to inform our plan to create 29 pathology networks across England on our website. See the link below:

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/pathology-networks/>

The report shows high level data such as current costs vs. savings opportunities. In addition to this, within the link you will find the data analysis report itself i.e. all the data we collected and analysed to produce the 29 networks report.

Question 2

The information requested is not held by NHS Improvement. The spend with LTS Health UK Ltd forms part of a larger block contract NHS Improvement hold and we are unable to break this down into how much was specifically paid to LTS for the report.

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.

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,

Andy Howlett

Clinical Productivity Operations Director