

09 April 2018

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██████████  
**By email**  
██

Dear ██████████,

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

We refer to your email of 9 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:

*“Please can you provide the ‘reference cost assurance programme 2016-17 findings’.*

*The findings for the 2015-16 collection were published on the NHSI website in November 2016, so the findings for the 2016-17 collection appear to be several months overdue.*

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/nhs-reference-cost-assurance-programme-findings-201516-audit/>”

### **Decision**

NHS Improvement does not hold the information that you have requested.

We do not hold the document *‘reference cost assurance programme 2016-17 findings’*. Last year we took the decision that rather than publish a report we would instead seek to provide a more graphical overview of the findings. This is because we received feedback that the report was not valued by stakeholders. The infographic approach has proved popular with a number of organisations using it to guide improvement efforts.

The results of the 2016/17 Costing Assurance Programme are available on our website – <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/costing-assurance-programme/> under **Reporting Dashboard**. The work (commissioned from EY) looks at the accuracy around costing and the planned transition from reference costs to Patient-level information and costing systems (PLICS).

We are currently finalising a review of 2016/17 reference costs submissions including assurance processes, and following up previous reference cost reports at 112 acute trusts. We plan to publish this summary on our website in April.

If it would be useful for you to discuss with us the findings of the assurance programme then please contact our Costings Team at: [Costing@improvement.nhs.uk](mailto:Costing@improvement.nhs.uk).

### **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,

**NHS Improvement**