

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF23-783

Request:

Excluding reports on investigations into self-harming, disruptive and/or aggressive behaviour, patient abuse, pressure sores and falls, please provide me with summaries of all serious incident reports, never event investigation reports (NE), patient safety incident investigation (PSII) reports, clinical reviews (CR) and/or root cause analysis investigation reports (RCA) completed in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 which meet the following criteria:

1. Report relates to an incident in one of the following departments:

- breast surgery
- gastroenterology
- interventional radiology
- neurorehab
- paediatrics
- respiratory
- trauma and orthopaedics

2. Report includes at least one of the following words or phrases:

- physician associate
- anaesthesia associate
- assistant practitioner
- physician assistant
- anaesthetic assistant
- PA
- AA

Please ensure your summaries include the following information:

- Date of incident (or date of report) - just state which you have chosen;
- A description of the incident including the job titles of staff involved;
- Problems and root causes identified during investigation (be specific about staffing issues, e.g. if short staffed explain what staff roles were on shift, or if an error occurred state the job titles of the individuals who were involved in this error);
- Actions (be specific, if staff require further training, state which staff, e.g. 'FY2 doctors' or 'physician associates')

Response:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) is unable to confirm if we hold the information requested as to do so would take in excess of 18 hours for the reasons stated below.

A search of EKHUFT's incident management database does not return any incidents that meet both criteria set out in the request, for the years 2019 to 2023. The job roles listed in the request do not appear in the descriptions of the incidents on the Trust's incident management system and where the

abbreviations PA and AA matched, these were found to be individuals' initials. The grade of staff is not commonly included in the incident management system records.

We identified that there are 202 serious incidents (SIs) that meet either criteria 1 or 2. In order to determine if any of these do meet in fact both criteria, reports associated with each incident would need to be located and reviewed; then, for those that are found to meet both criterion 1 and 2, the requested information would need to be located and summarised as requested. There may be additional incidents that were not declared SIs.

We estimate that this will exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 of the FOI Act for the SIs alone. To locate and review the individual reports, and then to extract and collate the information required within the cost limit would only allow 5 minutes per incident.

Under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), we are not required to comply with a request if the cost of responding to all parts would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450 for NHS bodies. The £450 limit is reached by using a standard charge-out rate of £25 an hour, which equates to 18 hours' work.

In addition, section 45 of FOIA - Code of Practice, paragraph 1.3 states that public authorities are not required to create new information in order to comply with a request for information under the Act. They only need to consider information already in existence at the time a request is received. We consider that writing summaries (as requested above) would constitute creating information if the summaries are not already held.

(DATE OF RESPONSE: 17 JANUARY 2024)