

# Freedom of Information Request

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**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.18.522  
**Date Received:** 18 April 2018

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**\*Note to Applicant:** As of 1 April 2017, North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEP) and South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) merged to form one new organisation known as Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT).

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## Information Requested:

### RE: Expenses Claim Reimbursement

This is to request you to kindly provide me with details (Name / Designation / Date of expense / Date of claim / Amount of claim / Date paid) for all claims made more than 1 month after the date of expenditure. This is for all levels from the CEO/Chairperson downwards for the past 6 (six) years. This is for both the current EPUT and the erstwhile separate North and South Essex Trusts.

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## Response:

The Trust is unable to provide the information requested.

Your request is asking us to look into every expense claim made by every member of staff in the last 6 years and then to identify which claims were made over a month from when the expense was incurred. This would require finding a receipt for the claim (e.g. train ticket) and comparing it to the date of the claim and the date the claim was paid. Given a monthly claim may contain any number of individual claims, over 72 months and for more than 5,000 staff this could potentially equate to hundreds of thousands of claims which would exceed the time and cost limits, as set out in the Act. The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit).

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## Applied Exemption:

### Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit):

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) "the appropriate limit" means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
- (a) by one person, or
  - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated