Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number:  
Date Received:  

*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).

Information Requested:

- 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 Consultants in the past 5 years.

The Trust has reviewed how many claims there have been by consultants in the past 5 year period dated from the date of this request (05/09/2018). The Trust has found there have been approximately 1800 requests during this period that would need to be manually reviewed and upon review, it takes on average 2 minutes to review each record to ascertain the information requested.

As such the time taken to gather the information in your request would take approximately 3600 minutes which equates to 60 hours. This far exceeds the time limit of 18 hours set out by the Information Commissioners Office. For more information please see the following link on the ICO website: https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/refusing-a-request/

As the Trust is unable to provide the information requested as this would exceed the time and cost limits set out in the Act. The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit):

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.