Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.19.1203
Date Received: 9 August 2019

Information Requested:

I’m a reporter for Pulse and I’m looking into secondary care discharge letters and referrals and would like a few questions to be answered under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please could you provide answers to each separate question covering the following time periods:

The first covering the time period 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2015 – 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2015;
The second covering the time period 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2016 – 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2016;
The third covering the time period 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2017 – 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2017; and the fourth covering the time period 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2018 – 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2018.

1. For each time period, how many discharge summaries were sent to GP practices after 24 hours of a discharge of a patient? i.e how many discharge summaries were delayed in sending to GPs? This counts for outpatient, inpatient, day case and A&E care.

Also, if you are able to answer within the confines of the FOI limitations, please answer the following:

2. For each time period, how many discharge summaries included planned and requested actions for GPs?

3. How many consultant to consultant (C2C) referrals were made in each time period?

Response

The Trust to unable to provide this data as it would require a manual trawl and therefore would exceed the time and cost limits, as set out in Section 12\textsuperscript{*} of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT’s Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link https://eput.nhs.uk