

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.20.1607
Date Received: 5th August 2020

Information Requested:

Given the potential for resurgent COVID-19 waves, ongoing localised lockdowns as well as annual winter pressures, I am looking into arrangements that Trusts will be making to support their staff in getting to and from work during 1 December 2020 - 31 March 2021.

1. What plans do you have in place to support staff with travel to and from work between 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021 in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns, locally or nationwide? (e.g., booking hotel rooms, hiring private accommodation, paying for taxis, creating special rest rooms)

The Trusts adverse weather policy and procedure would apply along with each individual department's Business Continuity Plans (BCP).

This Policy and Procedure is available on the Trusts public website. The Trust is unable to provide you with this information direct as the Freedom of Information Act prohibits the re-release of information that is already published within the public domain. The Trust is therefore applying Section 21 Exemption (Information accessible to applicant by other means).

However in an effort to be helpful we can provide you with the link on where to locate the Policy you have requested:

<https://eput.nhs.uk/publication-category/a/>

- HR53 – Adverse Weather Policy
- HRP53 – Adverse Weather Procedure

With regards to Covid-19 the BCP would come into place and local emergency planning responses would be activated. Depending on the situation this may include accessing hotel accommodation, taxi, use of local emergency responders to transport staff, deployment of staff to work in other areas. The plans activated would depend on the services and how they are impacted.

Applied Exemption:

Section 21 (Information accessible to applicant by other means):

- (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

- (a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
 - (b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

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>