

## Freedom of Information Request

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**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.23.3019  
**Date Received:** 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2023

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### Information Requested:

I am writing to request information regarding 'care hotels' as per the following NHS guidance: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/hotel-space-how-to-guide/>

Q1. Per month in financial year 2022/23, how many hotel rooms were booked? Please provide a breakdown per hotel, and share both the name of the hotel and the provider/company that runs the hotel.

The trust have identified £35k spend for 2022/23- bookings are made through an external organisation.

Q2. Per month in financial year 2022/23, please also share the following information:

- The cost of a hotel room per care recipient per day  
Costs range from approximately £70 to £110 per night
  
- The average patient stay (in weeks) in a care hotel  
We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format, but may be recorded in individual records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.
  
- Whether the Trust is the sole owner of the bookings, or if the booking is shared with another Trust.  
N/A
  
- If the booking is shared with another Trust, please name the Trust.  
N/A

Q3. Please share the minutes from all Trust Board meetings in financial year 2022/23, including copies of any presentations, such as PowerPoint slideshows, which were shown during meetings and copies of any written documents that were distributed to those attending the meetings.

The Trust believes that this information is publicly available on the <https://eput.nhs.uk/about-us/board-of-directors/board-meetings/board-papers/> website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means):

Q4. I assume that the Trust records the complaints made. For the purposes of this request, I am going to call those records “complaints logs”. You may use a different terminology internally such as “complaint records” or “complaint notes”. Please can you conduct a keyword search across the complaints logs in the financial year 2022/23 for the term “hotel” and provide each complaint log, including the summary of the complaint, the date, the hotel and the provider. Please also provide a total for the number of times the term “hotel” appears.

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#### 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.

#### 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

#### **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>