

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.24.3579
Date Received: 12th June 2024

Information Requested:

I am writing to make a formal request for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding collaborative working (including joint working) projects with pharmaceutical and related companies that your organisation is involved in.

For clarity, by "collaborative" I mean *projects/initiatives where by you are working with one or more pharmaceutical companies to deliver enhanced patient care or are for the benefit of patients or alternatively benefit the NHS and, as a minimum, maintain patient care.* By "Joint working" I mean *projects/initiatives involving working between one or more pharmaceutical company and healthcare organisation(s), which is patient-centred and always benefits patients.*

For each collaborative/joint working project entered into from April 2019 to today please detail:

- Name of project/initiative
- Date entered into the project/initiative
- Name of the pharmaceutical company/companies
- Name of the NHS organisations involved
- The aims/goals used to justify the project
- Resources planned to be utilized in the projections, or assessments conducted by your organisations on the outcomes or impact of these joint working projects
- When the project/initiative is planned to be complete

I would like to emphasise that this request is made aiming to enhance transparency and accountability in the collaboration between the NHS and the pharmaceutical industry.

Response:

The Trust believes that this information is publicly available on the www.disclosureuk.org.uk website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means):

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>