

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.23.3014
Date Received: 12th of June 2023

Information Requested:

1. How many of each of the following tests were ordered by clinicians or other staff for in-patients in your Basildon or Colchester Adult Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Services (including The Lakes, Kingswood Centre, Thorpe ward, and Grangewaters ward) during the most recent 12 month (or other) period for which data is available. Please specify what period is being reported on in the case of each tests.

- (a) ANA (anti-nuclear antibody) test.
- (b) ENA (extractable nuclear antigen) panel.
- (c) Full Blood Count (FBC).
- (d) NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate) antibodies

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. In the time period between 01/06/22 and 31/05/23, there were approximately 800 patients admitted into our adult inpatients units in Colchester and Basildon. To identify if these blood tests had taken place, someone would have to open each individual patient record, and review the case notes (which can be entered multiple times per day for inpatient stays) to determine whether or not any of the requested blood tests were ordered/completed. 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.

2. How many in-patients were in Basildon or Colchester Adult Psychiatric Inpatient Services (i.e. total patient through-put) at some point during the period for which you have reported on in answer to question 1.

See response to question 1.

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>