

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.23.2959
Date Received: 4th of May 2023

Information Requested:

1. Do mental health specialist staff follow the SHARE guidance regarding CONSENT, CONFIDENTIALITY & INFORMATION SHARING IN MENTAL HEALTHCARE & SUICIDE PREVENTION?

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust as part of its suicide prevention strategy and Carers & Family Strategy promotes the DHSC guidance on Confidentiality and Suicide Prevention. It is looking to adopt SHARE guidance as part of this.

2. If not, what guidance or protocol do you follow regarding vulnerable patients?

N/A

3. If so, do you provide training on this guidance? Is this training mandatory?

No specific training provided or mandated. Learning on family and carer involvement shared with staff. Promotion of DHSC guidance previously on a regular basis. Guidance provided as part of carer and family strategy guidance for staff.

4. In the last year, or six months should this exceed the cost limit, how many times was this protocol enacted? Essentially, I would like to know how many times did your NHS trust shares information about somebody being at risk of suicide with another agency, including police, councils, social workers.

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.

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>