

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.23.3082
Date Received: 8th of August 2023

Information Requested:

1. The number of requests the trust has received from a police force to access information about a service user's treatment in each of the following financial years: Essex Partnership University Trust receives information requests from the police in three different ways. The Access to Records team will handle requests from the Police wanting access to medical records. The Subject Access team will handle information held outside of the medical records. Additionally, we provide capacity statements through our Violence Abuse Prevention Reduction team (VAPR). These figures represent a cumulative figure of requests since 2018 - 2023. Please note that our VAPR team only has recorded data from 2022 onwards.
2018- 2019 - 252
2019-2020 - 224
2020- 2021 - 330
2021- 2022 - 519
2022- 2023 - 412
2. The number of requests the trust has received from a police force to access information about a service user's treatment where the trust has refused or declined to provide that information in each of the following financial years: Essex Partnership University Trust releases information to the police in line with the GDPR guidelines and the Data Protection Act 2018. We ensure that the personal data is shared in compliance with our data protection duties and obligations.
2018-19- 0
2019-20 - 0
2020-21- 0
2021-22 - 0
2022-23- 0
3. If possible, the number of requests the trust has received from a police force to access information about a service user's treatment where the police have been investigating an alleged sexual offence in each of the following financial years: We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. The information needed to answer this question is not collected centrally. It would be necessary to check Subject Access files individually to locate and extract the information needed. We estimate that it will take 5 minutes to check each file, and 1,737 files would need to be checked. We therefore estimate it would take 144 hours to collate the information needed to answer this request. This is in excess of the appropriate limit of 18 man hours and accordingly the Trust is not required to answer this request pursuant to section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
4. If possible, the number of requests the trust has received from a police force to access information about a service user's treatment where the police have been

investigating an alleged sexual offence where the trust has refused or declined to provide that information in each of the following financial years: 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23

See response to question 2

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>