

## Freedom of Information Request

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**Reference Number:** [EPUT.FOI.23.3036](#)  
**Date Received:** [27<sup>th</sup> of June 2023](#)

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### Information Requested:

I was wondering if I could ask for some assistance.

1. We have seen on a number of occasions that our providers have confirmed that they were contacted because of a list of legal aid solicitors that are held on the wards of various hospitals. I was wondering if you would be able to confirm that hospitals administered by the Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust do hold such lists and that they would provide this to client's who require assistance with the Mental Health Tribunal, or generally require legal advice?

[Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust maintains a list of solicitors on the wards for detained patients who wish to appeal against their detention to the Mental Health Tribunal.](#)

[The solicitors on the list are all accredited members of the Mental Health Panel of the Law Society, and there is a statement at the end of the list to state that a full list of those firms eligible to represent in this area can be found on the Law Society website. This is in case the detained patient's wish to choose a solicitor that is not on the Trust's list.](#)

2. Are you able to confirm the Trusts policy on visits during the covid lockdown period, specifically on whether any restrictions were placed on solicitors visiting wards and what restrictions were placed on them when they were on a ward?

[Please see attached documents.](#)

3. I understand that the Trust has a Local Counter Fraud Specialist appointed, and I was wondering if you could provide me with their contact details.

[Cliff Cowell - Anti-Crime Specialist](#)

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