

Freedom of Information Request - 1230

In your request you asked for the following information: -

This is a formal Freedom of Information Request relating to the use of Paper Forms at your hospital.

Can you please tell me:

- 1) Approximately how many different types of clinical forms are in use at your hospital(s)?
- 2) How many of these clinical forms are still paper based?
- 3) How many are available in electronic format, if any?
- 4) Approximately how many pages of paper are used for paper forms at your hospital(s)?

In response to the above questions: -

The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust does not hold the information you have requested in such a way to make this easily identifiable and retrievable. In order to comply with your request an extremely manual large exercise would be required to acquire and collate this information. It is estimated that this would take far in excess of the 'appropriate limit' of 18 hours as laid down in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 and as such is exempt under S12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 12(1) states that:

"Section 12(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."

Under Section 16 of the Act the Trust is under obligation to provide advice and assistance which may help to bring your request within the appropriate limit. However, the Trust estimates that it is not possible to reduce the information to fall inside the appropriate limit. The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has therefore, in this instance, declined to provide the requested information in the interests of Trust resources. This letter should be seen as a refusal notice regarding this particular part of your request.

- 5) How many portable clinical tablet PCs or slates are used by clinicians and nursing staff at your hospital(s)?

No portable clinical tablet PCs or slates have been issued by the Trust for the purposes of direct patient care.

- 6) Have you any plans to switch to paperless clinical documentation in the next 12 months?

The Trust has no plans to switch to paperless clinical documentation in the next 12 months.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss your request further. If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to appeal. In the first instance, please contact the Trust's Governance Manager who will initiate an internal review. The Trust will then review its decision and respond to your appeal, as soon as possible, but within 20 working days. If, following the review, you are still not satisfied with the way we have handled your request, or if you are unhappy with our response, then under Section 50 of the Act, you are entitled to appeal to the Information Commissioner.