

Information Governance

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26 October 2020

Our reference: FOI DA3565

I am responding to your request for information received 29 September 2020. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Keshia Harvey
Information Governance Manager

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision. If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliff House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

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Chair: Mark Lam

Interim Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus

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Request:

To whom it may concern,

I'm contacting you to learn more about NHS Wheelchair Services before and after Covid-19. If you could forward my request to your wheelchair service, I would greatly appreciate it.

I understand that some questions might be more subjective rather than factual questions. If it's not possible to answer these questions, feel free to ignore these.

Question 1. How many Occupational Therapists worked in your service before March 16, 2020?

Answer: 4

Question 2. How many Rehab Engineers worked in your wheelchair service before March 16, 2020?

Answer: 1 (contracted in for 1 day per week)

Question 3. How many Occupational Therapists are working in your wheelchair service today? (September 29, 2020)

Answer: 5

Question 4. How many Rehab Engineers are working in your wheelchair service today (September 29, 2020)

Answer: 1 (as above in question 2)

Question 5. Have you experienced an increase or reduction in graduates applying for positions as OTs or Rehab Engineers to your wheelchair service compared to before March 16, 2020?

Answer: No.

Question 6. Have you experienced growth or decrease in OTs resigning compared to before March 2020?

Answer: One member of staff has resigned from the service, which is an increase compared to prior to March 2020.

Question 7. Have you experienced an increase or reduction in Rehab Engineers resigning compared to before March 2020?

Answer: No.

Question 8. Before March 16, 2020, how did you gain information about what products to prescribe to patients?

Answer: The service has regular contact with company reps, product demonstrations during service training programme, Posture and Mobility Group [PMG] and liaison with other services.

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Question 9. Today September 29, 2020, how do you gain information about what products to prescribe to the patient?

Answer: As above, however, the PMG has been cancelled.

Question 10. Does your wheelchair service use more virtual communication today (September 29, 2020) compared to before March 16, 2020?

Answer: Yes, during the lock down but less frequently now. The service has reverted to face to face contact where possible.

Question 11. Is your service fully operational as before March 16, 2020?

Answer: No.

Question 12. How does your wheelchair service gain information about new courses and training events?

Answer: PMG, National Wheelchair Managers Forum [NWMF], email, client forums and requests, reps and engineers. In addition, liaison with other services.

Question 13. Is there a difference in what products you prescribe today (September 29, 2020) compared to before March 16 2020?

Answer: One supplier has gone into administration because of Covid-19. However, the service has located other suppliers for this equipment.