

Information Governance

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20 December 2022

Our reference: FOI DA4506

I am responding to your request for information received 19 December 2022. 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
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
of life and continuously improve our services.
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Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: To the trust FOI team

I would like to know whether NHS chaplains at the trust or other NHS chaplains have made comments after seeing patients who believe themselves to be possessed.

Please send me all case notes and/or email correspondence from 2022 which describes an NHS chaplain commenting on a patient and includes any of the following words:

"Possessed," "spirit," "jinn," "jin," "gin," "shayatin," "afarit," "exorcism," "devil," "satan," "satanic," "demon," "evil," "infestation," "subjection," "spectra," "occult," "witch," "Iblis," "nafs," "waswās," "dybbuk," "zebola," "awre," "sagwara," "shaitani," "gamba," "kitimiri," "inwatso," "loa," "iwa," "chwal," "māra," "kuei," "shaman," "Bhūtaṅgī," "Bhaironji," "peye," "setan,"

Please also send case notes and/or email correspondence from 2022 which describes an NHS chaplain commenting on a patient and includes any of the same words in their plural forms.

NOTE: I of course would not expect to be sent full case notes or discussions of patients that would identify them — just the relevant sections of text with the names and any other identifiers redacted.

Answer: Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

In order for the Trust to provide this information it would have to access patient records as all documentation including emails, are uploaded to the case notes. We do not have a legal basis to access patient records in order to respond to a Freedom of Information Request. Therefore we are unable to provide a response.



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