

Information Governance

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4 January 2023

Our reference: FOI DA4519

I am responding to your request for information received **29th 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,



Shuchi Joshi
Senior Information Governance Coordinator – Information Rights

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
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Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:

Question 1: For what symptoms would a transvaginal ultrasound be indicated?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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.

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide the services described in this request. We are therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: Are there any groups of people a transvaginal ultrasound would not be carried out on? If so, why would they not be indicated?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 3: Does trust policy indicate that it is allowed to carry out transvaginal ultrasounds on those who have never been sexually active before? If it is not allowed, what is the reasoning behind no sexual contact being a contraindication for these scans?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 4: If transvaginal ultrasounds are not allowed in your trust for the 'sexually inactive', what is the justification for this going against the British Medical Ultrasound Society's guidelines, which state: "The concept of virginity plays no part in the clinical decision making for a TVUS" and "if a patient has not had penetrative sex, they are still entitled to be offered, and to accept, a TVUS [transvaginal ultrasound] in the same way that cervical screening is offered to all eligible patients"?
[https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal Ultrasound Guidance Final With Front Cover MesUP8a.pdf](https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal%20Ultrasound%20Guidance%20Final%20With%20Front%20Cover%20MesUP8a.pdf)

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 5: What does the Trust define as 'sexual activity'?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 6: Which members of staff in your trust perform transvaginal ultrasounds?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 6 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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Question 7: Have all of those staff members received diversity and inclusion training regarding their patient-facing roles? If so, please detail the nature of the course or programme and number of hours completed.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 7 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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

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