

**Information Governance**

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2 January 2024

**Our reference: FOI DA5127**

I am responding to your request for information received 27 December 2023. 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,

Information Rights Coordinator

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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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We promise to work together creatively to: learn  
'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality  
of life and continuously improve our services.  
**We care . We respect . We are inclusive**

**Interim Chief Executive Officer:** Lorraine Sunduza  
**Chair:** Eileen Taylor

**Request:** We are writing to make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the Trusts implementation of NHS England's "Getting it Right First Time" (GIRFT) pathway for suspected Cauda Equina Syndrome (CES). We should be grateful for the following information:

**Question 1:** Has your Trust implemented GIRFT pathway for suspected CES in all of its hospitals.

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed 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 treatment services for Cauda Equina Syndrome as described in this request. We are therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 2:** If the answer to Q1 is affirmative, please advise when it was implemented and advise on the following:

- i. Number of CES related training to staff in the period since implemented compared to
- ii. the same period duration prior to implementation;
- iii. Number of MRI scans undertaken for suspected CES in the period since implemented
- iv. compared to the same period duration prior to implementation;
- v. Average time between MRI referral and performance of the scan for suspected CES
- vi. in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to
- vii. implementation;
- viii. Number of patients who underwent surgery for CES in the period since implemented
- ix. compared to the same period duration prior to implementation;
- x. Breakdown of feedback raised by clinicians with your Trust regarding implementation
- xi. of the pathway including total number of clinicians who provided feedback, whether
- xii. positive or negative and its nature (for example resource issue /training/delays/patient
- xiii. safety).

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**Question 3: If the answer to Q1 is negative, please state:**

- i. **If only some hospitals within your Trust implemented the pathway, please state which.**
- ii. **ones did not and the reason why.**
- iii. **What other policy is followed with regards to the diagnosis and management of CES?**
- iv. **Are the plans for the pathway to be implemented in the future and if so when? If not,**
- v. **why not?**
- vi. **IV. Breakdown of feedback raised by clinicians with your Trust regarding lack of implementation of the pathway including total number of clinicians who provided feedback, whether positive or negative and its nature (for example resource issue/training/delays/patient safety)**

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

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