15 January 2019

Re: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email, dated 2 January 2019, making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for access to information which may be held by NHS Greater Preston Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Please find detailed below NHS Greater Preston CCG’s response to your request, which is formatted as follows:-

1. Details of NHS Greater Preston CCG’s decision in regard to the information requested.
2. A schedule of all the records covered by your request.
3. A statement concerning copyright and re-use of public sector information.
4. Details of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these parts in turn:-

1. Decision

I can confirm that NHS Greater Preston CCG holds part of the information requested.

2. Schedule of records/FOI response

Request: Which procedures in 2013/14 were always subject to individual funding requests?

Response:

- Hair depilation
- Hair loss correction
- Hip arthroscopy
- Reversal of sterilisation
- Tattoo removal

Request: Which procedures as of 1 April 2018 are always subject to individual funding requests?
Response: Please see the CCG website at: https://www.greaterprestonccg.nhs.uk/clinical-and-prescribing-policies.

Where there are no stated eligibility criteria, or the procedure is marked “not routinely funded”, these are always subject to an individual funding request. Any procedure not listed anywhere in the policy, which is not available to patients, would be subject to an individual funding request. Please note that we are unable to identify what procedures are not listed within the policy. These would only become apparent as and when applications are received.

Request: How many individual funding requests has the CCG received in each financial year going back to 2013? How many of these has it denied? Please detail what the procedures were.

Response: Please see the attached spreadsheet for details of the number of individual funding requests received and rejected. It should be noted that due to the low number of individual funding requests received for certain procedures the CCG is applying exemption on 40(2) (personal information), of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as disclosure of this level of detail could lead to the identification of individuals, which would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

3. Copy and reuse of public sector information provided in FOI response

Most of the information provided by NHS Greater Preston CCG in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In the majority of cases the information will be owned by NHS Greater Preston CCG. The copyright for other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated in the information itself: in this case you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. It may also be used for the purposes of news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example, by publishing the information or issuing copies to the public will require the permission of the copyright owner.

4. Right of appeal to FOI response

If you are dissatisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you are entitled to complain in the following way:

Initially you should complain in writing to the freedom of information officer, either by email on gpcgc.foi@nhs.net or post to Chorley House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TT, specifying why you feel you have been wrongly denied access to the information requested. The freedom of information officer will ensure your complaint is investigated under NHS Greater Preston CCG’s internal processes and provide you with a written response within 20 working days.
If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Greater Preston CCG.

Yours sincerely

Helen Curtis
FOI Lead
Head of Quality and Performance