9 July 2019

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

Thank you for your email, dated 26 June 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

Please can you provide the following documents/information relating to the Our Health Our Care programme:

Request: All reports presented to the CCG from the Stage 1 NHS England clinical senate assurance visit.

Response: No formal reports were presented to the CCG or programme at this stage of the assurance process.

Request: All reports presented to the CCG by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine following its visit/review in the first half of 2019.

Response: This information is exempt from disclosure as it is intended for future publication as part of any possible pre-consultation business case for the Our Health Our Care programme. We are not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication.
publication (Section 22 (1) of the FOI Act). In line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, we have concluded that releasing this information at this time would not be in the public interest.

When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

Public interest favouring disclosure:
• The CCG is working with other health and care partners in central Lancashire on the Our Health Our Care programme to implement an agreed new model of care for future local acute and community based services. Releasing this information could lead to a better understanding of the programmes purpose and the urgent and emergency care system in particular.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information:
• The Our Health Our Care programme is currently in the process of developing options for appraisal by the Joint Committee of Clinical Commissioning Groups in central Lancashire as to how this model of care could be best implemented. Some of these options, if deemed the most feasible for delivering the intended outcomes of the model of care, could involve major service change. At this stage the CCG would need to engage with local scrutiny arrangements and the necessary regulatory bodies to consider a formal consultation on any agreed option and produce a pre-consultation business case. It is important that any information which would be pertinent to a future possible pre-consultation business case is presented as a whole, rather than being disclosed piece-meal through individual requests. It would, therefore, not be appropriate to publish this information until the full options appraisal has been concluded and a future direction of travel for the programme is clearer. Disclosure at this stage of the programme could be perceived as a pre-determination of any possible future public consultation.

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 gpccg.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