

From: National Guardian's Office <enquiries@nationalguardianoffice.org.uk>
Subject: FOI response re bulletins
Date: 13 July 2018 at 14:43:20 BST
To: Ian Alexander <[REDACTED]>

Dear Mr. Alexander,

I apologise for the delay in responding to your request and acknowledge that we have breached the time limit under section 10 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The delay was due to an initial failure to identify that this was an FOIA request (for which, additional NGO staff training has been arranged).

We also needed to consult with the Guardians who had submitted articles to the bulletin to ensure that no inadvertent breach of confidentiality may arise from disclosure and to ensure that their trusts were sighted on the information being disclosed.

You will see that some information has been redacted from the bulletins.

Names of Guardians who submitted articles to the bulletins have been redacted, along with other information that would identify those individuals (names of trusts, email addresses and phone numbers, unique IT systems used). These redactions are made under section 40 of FOIA ("personal information"). We are of the view that Guardians submitted these articles to the bulletin in the understanding that circulation would be limited to their peers around the country for the purpose of shared learning and development. In the circumstances, we have decided that disclosure of the names would not serve a public interest that would make it fair to disclose their names (or other identifiers).

Repeated instances of a direct line telephone number for Guardians to contact the NGO have also been redacted. We have a publicly available number to contact the NGO but we consider that it is important that Guardians have a quick and direct line to the NGO so that they can obtain urgent advice and support when required. We consider that public disclosure of this number would defeat this purpose and would therefore prejudice the NGO's ability to support Guardians in their role to support NHS employees in raising concerns relating to the safety and welfare of patients, and protecting the welfare of the people who raise those concerns. These redactions are made under section 31(g) of FOIA. We do not consider that there is any significant public interest to be served by the disclosure of this number.

If you are unhappy with this FOIA response, you can ask a senior manager to conduct an Internal Review by responding to this email and setting out any reasons why you feel we have failed to comply with FOIA. Following internal review, you will have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (www.ico.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

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