

From: FOI <REDACTED>

Subject: [CONFIDENTIAL] RE: Numbers and outcomes of referrals to HCPC by NHS ambulance trusts

Date: 20 August 2020 at 15:48:46 BST

To: REDACTED

Our Ref. FR06782

Dear Dr Alexander

Thank you for your email of 4 August 2020, in which you ask for information in relation to fitness to practise referrals made by NHS ambulance trusts.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Questions 1-3

We have run a report to determine how many fitness to practise referrals have been made by each of the listed ambulance trusts. We did not find any. However, the information regarding employer referrals is not held in an easily accessible format. To provide you with accurate numbers would require that we conduct a manual review of each case referred to us by an employer. This would exceed the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the FOIA, that being £450.

Staff time can be charged at £25 per hour, this equates to 18 hours before the limit is met. Between 1 April 2018 and 31 July 2020 there have been 2,809 cases. We estimate to access each case and extract the employer details would take 5 minutes per record. 2,809 multiplied by 5 minutes equates to 234 hours, therefore exceeding the cost limit.

Question 4

We do not collate and track data on vexatious, malicious and/or dishonest referrals by employers.

Question 5

We do not have a policy or equivalent for handling employer referrals which we find are vexatious, malicious and/or dishonest.

Question 6

To determine if the HCPC had ever taken action against registrants who have made vexatious, malicious or dishonest referrals would require us to manually review each fitness to practise case. This would exceed the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the FOIA, that being £450.

Internal review

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

Governance Department

Health and Care Professions Council
Park House
184 - 186 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU

Email: secretariat@hcpc-uk.org

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Kind regards

Maxine Noel
Information Governance Manager

Health and Care Professions Council
Park House, 184 - 186 Kennington Park Road
London SE11 4BU
www.hcpc-uk.org

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Correspondence is welcome in English or Welsh / Gallwch ohebu yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

From: minh alexander <REDACTED>

Sent: 04 August 2020 9:32 AM

To: FOI <REDACTED>

Subject: Numbers and outcomes of referrals to HCPC by NHS ambulance trusts

Apologies

I omitted to add the details of the NHS ambulance trusts

Please disregard the email below of 9.25 am and accept the following as a replacement:

Dear Sirs,

Numbers and outcomes of referrals to HCPC by NHS ambulance trusts

Please advise with respect to the following NHS ambulance trusts

North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

over financial years 2018/19, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 year to date:

1. How many referrals has each of these ambulance trusts made to the HCPC?
2. Does the HCPC hold central data that is easily interrogated on the outcomes of these referrals?

Is such data held on a computer database/ spreadsheet which can be filtered and searched?

3. If HCPC holds easily interrogable data on the outcome of referrals from these trusts, please provide a broad break of the outcomes for each trust in the relevant period.
4. Does the HCPC collate and track data on vexatious, malicious and or dishonest referrals by employers?

5. Does the HCPC have a policy, or equivalent, for handling employer referrals which it finds are vexatious, malicious and or dishonest? If so, please disclose the policy document or equivalent.

6. Has the HCPC ever taken regulatory action against managers who are registered health professionals who have made vexatious, malicious or dishonest referral to the HCPC about their staff?

Yours,

Dr Minh Alexander