

Ref. No: 0719
Date: 20/02/24
Subject: Paper Records

REQUEST

I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. The number of hospitals in your Trust which hold paper only medical records for one or more patients; and
2. The number of patients for whom your Trust (or hospitals within your Trust) holds only paper medical records.

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

We would need to undertake a manual review of paper records to confirm whether patients also had a digital record, which we estimate would far exceed the appropriate limit.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.