

Date: Thursday, 13 June 2019
Our Ref: MB/KF FIRM 3876

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FIRM 3876

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 7TH June 2019.

Your request was received as follows:

1. Do you have a staff social media policy? - [Yes](#)
2. Do you have a policy or guidance on staff use of messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, Siilo, Forward? - [Please see attached Social Media Policy](#)
3. Does your Trust actively discourage the use of WhatsApp? – [The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust's Information Governance Team has had a number of discussions relating to the use of messaging apps such as WhatsApp and discourages staff to use this application.](#)
4. In the past two calendar years, have any staff been formally disciplined for the inappropriate use of messaging apps at work (ie for sharing clinical information) or for using unapproved messaging apps? If yes, how many? – 0
5. Are you aware how many staff use WhatsApp for work-based communication with colleagues? If yes, how many? – [I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 \(1\) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 \(FOIA\) that we do not collate information regarding how many staff use WhatsApp for work-based communication with colleagues. Under the FOI Act, we are not required to create this information in order to answer your request. I should explain that the FOI Act is to do with transparency of information held by public authorities. It gives an individual the right to access recorded information held by public authorities. The FOI Act does not require public authorities to generate information, or to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.](#)
6. Have you recommended or implemented a messaging platform for use across your Trust? If yes, which app or platform do you use? – [Blackberry Work](#)

See our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original



letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information



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