

Date: Wednesday, 19th August 2020
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 4411

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4411

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 05th August 2020.

Your request was as follows:

Given the potential for resurgent COVID-19 waves, ongoing localised lockdowns as well as annual winter pressures, I am looking into arrangements that trusts will be making to support their staff in getting to and from work during 1 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021.

1. What plans do you have in place to support staff with travel to and from work between 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021, in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns, locally or nationwide?

[Such as: booking hotel rooms; hiring private accommodation; paying for taxis; creating special rest rooms]

Here at The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) our policy on severe weather condition has always been as follows:

Adverse Weather Conditions

Employees are responsible for getting to work on time. Any absence due to the inclement weather conditions must be covered by annual leave, flexi-time or time-owing in the first instance. When these options have been exhausted, unpaid leave may be granted at the manager's discretion.

There are exceptions to the HMRC liability on taxis but they don't cover adverse weather etc.

As well as the Home from Home accomodation we also had the offer of hotel accommodation in the peak, again this is going to depend on the situation at the time I imagine, should there be any further lockdowns.

Please 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, FOI 4411 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 Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information