

Date: Tuesday, 18th August 2020
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4423

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4423

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 18th August 2020.

Your request was as follows:

Please provide a copy of all the evidence you have that informs your decision to continue the ban on visitors to the Walton Centre, as stated - 'Due to the current rate and presentation of Covid in our region, we will continue to restrict visiting'

[Please find attached the guidance from NHS England and NHS Improvement which is from the Directors of Nursing across the region of Cheshire & Merseyside.](#)

Please also provide details of the assessment you have undertaken on the effect this ban is having on the mental health of patients.

[We need to protect patients and staff and this was seen as a way of maintaining safety. Trusts have put plans in place to enable letters from home, telephone calls, facetime for families with their loved ones, Dr calls to families to provide updates and nurse calls to families. Should a patient in the Walton Centre have mental health issues, complex condition or have communication issues / extraordinary concerns, the staff risk assess the situation and facilitate visiting.](#)

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 4423 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