

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/20/193

FIT Testing

Request details

This is a Freedom of Information request for data collected during face mask FIT testing schemes at NHS trusts.

We are writing to ask for information regarding the FIT testing scheme for the face masks used at your trust. We are looking to collate information surrounding participant demographics and pass rates that are collected during the FIT testing process for these face masks. This is with the objective of ascertaining the presence of a gender discrepancy in mask FIT test pass rates

The information we were hoping to collect is the following:

For all those who have undergone FIT testing:

- 1) Genders of participants**
- 2) Pass rates**
- 3) Specific types of masks that were assessed (we are particularly interested in FFP3 masks)**
- 4) Qualitative or quantitative testing measures**
- 5) Any further demographic data attached to participants – e.g. age and ethnicity**

Response details

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

To comply with our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance, the UHB would like to advise that FIT testing is carried out in many areas of the UHB. Please find attached data that has been captured via our ESR.