

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/607

NHS Chaplains

Information Requested:

I would like to know whether NHS chaplains at the trust or other NHS chaplains have made comments after seeing patients who believe themselves to be possessed.

Please send me all case notes and/or email correspondence from 2022 which describes an NHS chaplain commenting on a patient and includes any of the following words:

"Possessed," "spirit," "jinn," "jin," "gin," "shayatin," "afarit," "exorcism," "devil," "satan," "satanic," "demon," "evil," "infestation," "subjection," "spectra," "occult," "witch," "Iblis," "nafs," "waswās," "dybbuk," "zebola," "awre," "sagwara," "shaitani," "gamba," "kitimiri," "inwatso," "loa," "iwa," "chwal," "māra," "kuei," "shaman," "Bhūtavidyā," "Bhaironji," "peye," "setan,"

Please also send case notes and/or email correspondence from 2022 which describes an NHS chaplain commenting on a patient and includes any of the same words in their plural forms.

NOTE: I of course would not expect to be sent full case notes or discussions of patients that would identify them — just the relevant sections of text with the names and any other identifiers redacted.

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 patient 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.

In addition, the UHB believes that the data requested is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.