

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-585

Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 23rd April 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your Email on 9th April 2021 and the subsequent request for an internal review on your FOI request reference 585-2021/566-2021 (aggregated) regarding information on pest control and racist/xenophobic behaviour.

You asked:

"I would like to appeal this decision. Please refer it for independent review.

They are absolutely NOT related requests. There is no connection at all between the two questions. They should not be considered as one joined request.

I look forward to hearing the results of the independent review, as well as receiving the data I've requested".

We acknowledged this request via email the same day and stated:

I acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your e-mail of 09 April 2021 requesting an internal review of our decision to aggregate both of your requests.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) I conducted the internal review. All the information in relation to this request has been examined and I found that the legislation allows us to aggregate related requests received within the 60 day period. However, in this instance we applied the guidance incorrectly, as the two requests are not 'related'. We had based the aggregation on the basis they were from the same person, had the same email address and both requests were made during March 2021 and by virtue of the fact that all information was available to be disclosed. We apologise for this, but note that both requests were answered within the 20 day time frame, the response for both was sent to you on 26th March 2021. A copy of our original response is attached for your reference.

This letter confirms the completion of this request for an internal review. A log of this review and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any further queries related to the response provided please contact my office in the first instance.

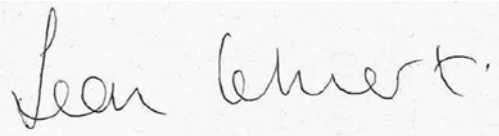
If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager