

Title:

Emergency Department Floor Plans

Reference Number: RDF1360

Date of Response: 24/03/2023

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

[Could you please share with me the floor plans of the emergency area of your hospitals?](#)

The Trust does hold the information being requested and has considered your request. However, the Trust feels that that the request for the Trust Emergency Department Floor plans should not be disclosed, and therefore site a Section 17 – Notice of refusal for the following reasons:

Section 31 (1) (a) Law enforcement - the prevention or detection of crime: Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. It is in our view that to provide detailed information about the layout of our hospitals would be contrary to taking appropriate measures to manage such risks as crime and terrorism.

The release of such information into the public domain would increase the likelihood that the Trust would be the target of such activity. Therefore S31(1)(a) of the FOIA is engaged as disclosure of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

The public interest test: Factors in favour of maintaining the exemption:

Theft – The Trust does not wish to share detailed plans where equipment and drugs are stored.

Vulnerability - Detailed plans are likely to show fire compartmentation etc , of which the Trust would not want this information openly shared as it is likely to indicate locations of vulnerability and The Trust would not wish that used to the detriment of patient and staff safety.

There is a strong general public interest in supporting public bodies to effectively protect the public health provisions they hold and to make efficient use of public funds to monitor security. In relation to health care organisations this public interest is magnified as it is the Trust's responsibility to ensure the safety of those present on its sites.

Factors in favour of disclosure:

The public would appreciate assurances that vital public services such as hospitals are able to meet the demands placed upon them. There is also always a favourable public interest in disclosure arising from requests made under the Freedom of Information Act, in the spirit of transparency and openness.

Conclusion In this instance the Trust considers that the balance of public interest lies in maintaining the exemption in the effectiveness of law enforcement and the prevention of crime.