

Infected Blood

Reference Number: RDF1712-23

Date of Response: 14/08/23

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).

Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,

Under FOIA, I am requesting the following information:

- 1. All e-mail correspondence (including any attachments) sent to, CC'd to or from the Haemophilia Centre Director during the period 5th April 2023 - 19th July 2023 which relates to the Infected Blood Inquiry or Infected Blood Compensation. The scope of this request excludes patient data.*

Answer: The Trust is restricted in providing you with the above information, namely information which has been received from, or transferred to, the Officers of 'The Infected Blood Inquiry', by virtue of the provisions of Section 32 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In reaching this decision, the Trust are mindful that the unauthorised disclosure of information, which has been placed in the custody of the Inquiry or its Officers, can, in certain circumstances, constitute an offence; particularly, but not exclusively, under the Inquiries Act 2005 and Inquiry Rules 2006.

In order to assist you, we would like to advise under Section 16 of the Act, that the Infected Blood Inquiry was opened on 24 September 2018 and the requested information covers a period of 30 years. Preliminary findings were completed in November 2018, and formal Public Hearings have now commenced. Please see the following link:-

- <https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/events/haemophilia-clinicians-public-hearings-timetable>

As Section 32 is an absolute exemption there is no requirement to apply the public interest test

This information is also being withheld under section 22 (information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Infected Blood Inquiry has published or will publish in the future all evidence and documentation that is releasable into the public domain relating to the inquiry on the following website: <https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/>

As section 22 is a qualified exemption, The Trust have considered the public interest test for and against disclosure. In favour of disclosure we have recognised that there is a strong public interest in openness and transparency with regards to the Freedom of Information legislation .

We do not consider however that it is in the public interest to release information into the public domain prematurely as this would require staff spending time on accelerating publication rather than other activities in the public interest and it might result in inaccurate information being disclosed. Overall we consider the balance is in favour of withholding this information at this time.