



Ref: 0648

Request:

Received: 08/02/2010

Dear FOI Coordinator,

I would like to make **four** separate requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. I would be grateful if you could respond immediately to confirm receipt of these requests and to provide me with a unique reference number for them.

I would like to request information on the amount of time it takes your organisation to pay suppliers.

Requests:

I am requesting:

1. Since 8 October 2008 to date, the percentage of suppliers' invoices that a) have and b) have not been paid within 10 days.
2. Since 8 October 2008 to date, a) the number of suppliers who have not been paid within 10 days and b) the total value of the suppliers' invoices concerned.
3. Since 8 October 2008 to date, a) how much the organisation paid to suppliers in interest for late payment pursuant to the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 and b) the total value of the suppliers' invoices concerned.
4. Since 1 April 2008, how much the organisation paid to suppliers in interest for late payment pursuant to the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 and b) the total value of the suppliers' invoices concerned.

Public interest arguments:

There is a clear public interest for disclosure of this information, in that disclosure will:

- Promote accountability and transparency regarding compliance with the Prompt Payment Code.
- I observe that the Information Commissioner's guidance on the public interest notes:



- o 'there is an assumption in the FOIA that openness is, in itself, to be regarded as something which is in the public interest. The EIR expressly state in regulation 12(2) that "A public authority shall apply a presumption in favour of disclosure". In applying the public interest test, a public authority should bear this in mind along with other considerations' (*The Public Interest Test*, Version 3, 1 July 2009).

I note that this information is not reasonably accessible by other means, including, where relevant, the organisation's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-9.

Processing of this request:

I would like to be sent this material by email,

Further to Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), if you have any queries relating to these requests or need clarification on any issue, I would be grateful if you could email me on the above email address.

I observe the MoJ's guidance on fees which states, "if a request is particularly wide-ranging, and therefore likely to be expensive to answer, the authority should consider discussing this with the applicant and see if the question could be refined to a more manageable level, or resubmitted in part, to bring it below the appropriate limit." Please contact me if this will be necessary to bring any of these separate requests under the fees limit.

If the information requested in any of these request is not available. I will be pleased to receive the available data only.

Yours sincerely,



Response:

Responded: 10/02/2010

Dear

Thank you for your request for information, placed under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (FOIA).

I set out below the information you seek against your specific queries in your email below.

1. Since 8 October 2008 to date, the percentage of suppliers' invoices that a) have and b) have not been paid within 10 days.

	A) 14.19%	B) 85.81%
Non NHS		
	A) 14.67%	B) 85.33%
NHS		

2. Since 8 October 2008 to date, a) the number of suppliers who have not been paid within 10 days and b) the total value of the suppliers' invoices concerned.

	A) 994	B) £69,066K
Non NHS		
	A) 19	B) £ 2,996K
NHS		

3. Since 8 October 2008 to date, a) how much the organisation paid to suppliers in interest for late payment pursuant to the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 and b) the total value of the suppliers' invoices concerned.

	A) £354.72	B) £1,775.64
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4. Since 1 April 2008, how much the organisation paid to suppliers in interest for late payment pursuant to the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 and b) the total value of the suppliers' invoices concerned.

	A) £354.72	B) £1,775.64
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Yours sincerely

Gary Bassett
Head of Patient Experiences
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust