



Ref: 0673

Request:

Received: 24/03/2010

Dear FOI Officer,

Re: FOI Request on Compromise Agreements Dated February 5th 2010

I write with respect to the above Freedom of Information request, which I re-attach. This request was sent to all Trusts. In order that the results are comparable, we have asked for compromise agreements pertaining to the last ten years. Please ensure that your answer conforms to the last ten years. If not, please treat this as a clarification and respond to the e-mail address below.

Thank you to those Trusts who have provided complete answers and disclosure.

However, a few Trusts have attempted to fail to provide any information, and/or redact vast tracts. The Information Commissioner considered NHS compromise agreements in detail in DN-FS50202562 (*Andrew Bousfield v. Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust*). The data protection and confidence defences were considered and rejected - it was held that the public interest won out, and Trusts had to disclose the compromise agreements, and severance sums with names and dates black-pencilled. If any Trust has failed to provide compromise agreements as requested, I will be referring all such Trusts to the Commissioner in a conjoined appeal.

If you have refused to provide the information as requested, please also treat this as confirmation of a request for an internal review, prior to the ICO reference. All reviews should be sent or resent to the e-mail address below.

Yours sincerely,

Response:



Responded: 26/03/2010

Dear

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

I do not know if there has been some misunderstanding but I can confirm that we have no record of receiving any previous request for information from you.

As an ambulance Trust, we do not employ any doctors to act in this capacity and I wonder if your request was intended to be sent to us. However, formally then, I can confirm that we do not hold any information relating to compromise agreements with doctors of any grade.

I do hope this clarifies our position.

However, I am of course obliged to advise you that if you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request you have a right to complain to the Trust and should set out your concerns to Mr Peter Suter, Director of Information Management & Technology, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 220 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8SD. If you then still remain dissatisfied, and as you will be aware, you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to seek a determination from the Information Commissioner on whether the Act has been properly applied by the Trust. For more information, please see www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Gary Bassett
Head of Patient Experiences
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust