



## GOVERNING BODY

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	15
<b>Reference No.</b>	IESCCG 19-47
<b>Date.</b>	23 July 2019

<b>Title</b>	<b>Freedom of Information</b>
<b>Lead Chief Officer</b>	Amanda Lyes, Chief Corporate Services Officer
<b>Author(s)</b>	Tony Buckle, Risk Manager
<b>Purpose</b>	To update the Governing Body on Freedom of Information activity within the CCG.

### Applicable CCG Clinical Priorities:

1.	To promote self care	
2.	To ensure high quality local services where possible	✓
3.	To improve the health of those most in need	
4.	To improve health & educational attainment for children & young people	
5.	To improve access to mental health services	
6.	To improve outcomes for patients with diabetes to above national averages	
7.	To improve care for frail elderly individuals	
8.	To allow patients to die with dignity & compassion & to choose their place of death	
9.	To ensure that the CCG operates within agreed budgets	

### Action required by the Governing Body:

The Governing Body is asked to note the report.

## 1. Background

1.1 The Freedom of Information Act 2000, provides a general right of access to information held by public authorities, including the NHS. Anyone can request information and has the right to be told:

- Whether the public authority holds the information, and
- If it does, to be provided with the information (subject to exemptions)

The Management Delivery Team handles requests on behalf of both West Suffolk CCG and Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG and as of 1 April 2019 on behalf of North East Essex CCG.

## 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report covers the fourth quarter of 2018/19 and the first quarter of 2019/20.
- 2.2 Suffolk requests continue to be received at an average of around 20 per month with NEECCG receiving slightly less. Almost all of the Suffolk requests cover both CCGs with only one or two being directed specifically to one Suffolk CCG.
- 2.3 All Suffolk requests have been answered within the 20 working days allowed under the Act; one NEECCG request was responded to after the 20 day deadline.
- 2.4 The source of requests remains consistent and the majority still come from requesters identifying as members of the public. It is likely however that a large proportion of these are actually journalists, or people making requests on behalf of commercial organisations. Interest groups are also responsible for high numbers of requests and patterns seem to develop depending on what is being reported in the newspapers and on TV. The media (local and national) also make a number of requests, again generally related to issues currently being discussed by parliament or other media sources.
- 2.5 The main topics requested have been varied with no real popular topic.

## 3. Future Action

- 3.1 The Risk Manager will continue to manage the responses to requests for information received under the legislation.
- 3.2 The tables in Appendix 1 give an overview of the number of requests received for the fourth quarter of 2018/19 and first quarter of 2019/20 for Suffolk and NEE CCGs (from 1 April 2019).

### Appendix 1

Jan – Mar 2019	Number of requests
January	23
February	16
March	23

Apr – Jun 2019	Number of requests
April	Suffolk 31 - NEE 22
May	Suffolk 25 - NEE 23
June	Suffolk 18 - NEE 13

Quarter totals	Number of requests
Jan - Mar	62
Apr - Jun	Suffolk 74 - NEE 58
<b>Total</b>	<b>Suffolk 136 NEE 58</b>