



GOVERNING BODY

Agenda Item No.	15
Reference No.	IESCCG 20-09
Date.	28 January 2020

Title	Freedom of Information
Lead Director	Amanda Lyes, Director of Corporate Services and System Infrastructure
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Purpose	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 where appropriate	
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 (NEECCG).

2. Key Issues

2.1 This report covers the second and third quarter of 2019/20.

2.2 Suffolk CCGs requests received average around 20 - 25 per month with NEECCG receiving slightly less. Almost all of the Suffolk requests cover both CCGs with only a few being directed specifically to one Suffolk CCG.

2.3 Both Suffolk and NEECCGs had all requests answered within the 20 working days allowed under the Act, apart from one request for each that was responded to one day 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 and general businesses.

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 small 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 second and third quarter of 2019/20 for Suffolk and NEE CCGs.

Appendix 1

Jul – Sept 2019	Number of requests
July	Suffolk - 23 NEE - 17
August	Suffolk - 30 NEE - 22
September	Suffolk - 18 NEE - 16

Oct – Dec 2019	Number of requests
October	Suffolk - 18 NEE - 14
November	Suffolk - 33 NEE - 30
December	Suffolk - 22 NEE - 18

Quarter totals	Number of requests
Jul - Sep	Suffolk - 71 NEE - 55
Oct - Dec	Suffolk - 73 NEE - 62
Total	Suffolk - 144 NEE - 117