

FOI 3300

4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**Question:**

**Please provide a copy of the EXCEL document provided to the Royal College of Pathologists for their report into the Cervical screening which shows the record of the false negatives reviewed by lead consultant and discussions with screeners. I am aware and understand that names will be redacted, which is fine.**

**Response:**

Your request for information regarding a Cervical screening report now been considered and the requested information is exempt from disclosure.

It is the view of the Trust that the release of this information, even if heavily redacted, could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. The material released to the Royal College was a Performance Review of individual staff members. There were a small number of screeners involved and the material already in the public domain, not least the public hearings by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), would potentially facilitate this identification. Further we believe that much of the information is effectively summarised in the RCPATH report which has been made readily available. It is our considered opinion that it would be inappropriate to release this material. Furthermore, a sufficiently redacted submission would be rendered potentially meaningless.

Therefore, the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. The exemption is Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Third Party Personal data. The disclosure would be likely to breach one or more of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act/UK General Data Protection Regulation. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and the requirement to consider the public interest in whether to disclose the information or not does not arise.

In reaching this decision consideration has been given to the “spectrum of identifiability” and the fact that a person can be identifiable from many factors, not just a name. In addition, the Trust has taken into the account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI request is disclosed to the “world at large”, not just to the applicant.

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