

FOI 1490

30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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

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**Under FOI legislation please provide the Infection control and prevention directive and/or guidance in respect of Covid-19 by which it was recommended and/or acceptable to discharge a Covid-19 positive patient from hospital to a care facility without making said facility aware of the patient's infection status.**

*Response:*

*Nursing Home staff will be aware of a positive COVID-19 result regarding a patient being discharged from hospital to the home. Strict infection prevention and control measures (including a patient being isolated) are adhered to throughout this period of transition.*

*Prior to the NI interim testing protocol version 3 (17th April 2020), the guidance was to test for COVID-19 when there was a cluster in a long term care facility. Care home residents would also have been tested if they met the case definition and required admission to hospital. The criteria for testing was broadened in version 3 to include all symptomatic residents in care homes and patients being discharged from hospital to a care home.*

*The current guidance to be followed when patients are transferred between healthcare facilities (including care facilities) is that the new facility is informed of any known alert organism (MRSA, C difficile, Covid 19, etc) so that appropriate arrangements can be made to support discharge planning.*