

FOI – 2239

8th April 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Please provide a list of the names of Dermatology Consultant Doctors who manage patients with hidradenitis suppurativa (HS).

Response:

All consultant dermatologists in the Southern Health & Social Care Trust manage patients with hidradenitis suppurativa (HS)

The Trust cannot provide full names of Dermatology consultant staff as this level of detail is considered exempt under section 40(2) – third party personal information because disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. Individual staff would not have the reasonable expectation that their name would be made public in response to an FOI request, which is considered to be a “disclosure to the world at large”. Disclosure would therefore be unfair to these individuals.

If names of individual professional staff are released there is also the potential risk that they will receive unnecessary direct contact unrelated to their front-line duties and could become the target of harassment directly or via internet campaigns. This could have an impact on the ability of the staff member to perform their frontline duties. Although there is some public interest in disclosing this information it does not outweigh the potential consequences. Disclosure would be unfair and therefore breach the first data protection principle.

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