



Resolution

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November 2019
FOI_3986 and FOI_4042

The following information was requested on 30 August 2019 and 21 October 2019:

[FOI_3986]

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I request the following information;

The total number of referrals made of individual NHS Hospital Consultants to NCAS, by speciality, for each of the years from 2009 to 2018 ;

- 1) When that referral was the second time that the individual Consultant had been referred to NCAS.*
- 2) When that referral was the third time that the individual Consultant had been referred to NCAS.*
- 3) When that referral was the fourth or subsequent time that the individual Consultant had been referred to NCAS.*
- 4) The maximum number of times that any individual Consultant had been referred to NCAS.*

[FOI_4042]

For the year 2010-2019

the number of individual medical practitioners subject to MHPS investigation on more than one occasion?

Please specify how many had 2, 3, 4 or more?

How many returned to clinical practice in the same trust?

Our Response

We have responded to both FOI requests below. The information set out is based on data held in respect of requests for advice received from healthcare organisations in England and Wales per financial year.

FOI 3986

You asked for 'The total number of referrals made of individual NHS Hospital consultants to NCAS by specialty of the years from 2009 to 2018'. Please see below for results.

Specialty	Total
Surgical group	857
General medicine group	536
Psychiatry group	441

Obstetrics and gynaecology	326
Anaesthetics	276
Paediatric group	212
Radiology group	164
Pathology group	121
Accident and emergency	104
Dental group	72
Clinical oncology	28
Total	3,137

You also asked 'when that referral was the second time that the individual Consultant had been referred to NCAS'. Please see below for results.

Specialty	Total
Surgical group	43
General medicine group	25
Obstetrics and gynaecology	13
Psychiatry group	12
Radiology group	6

Due to the small number of requests for Advice for the following Consultants by specialty, Advice have grouped the results to protect the identity of these practitioners.

Specialty	Total
Anaesthetics	25
Accident and emergency	
Dental group	
Paediatric group	
Pathology group	
Grand Total	124

You asked *'when that referral was the third time that the individual Consultant had been referred to NCAS'*. Due to the small number of requests for Advice for the following Consultants by specialty, Advice have grouped the results to protect the identity of these practitioners. Please see below for results.

Specialty	Total
Surgical group	7
Psychiatry group	
Radiology group	
Obstetrics and gynaecology	
Dental group	
Pathology group	
Grand Total	7

We are unable to provide the breakdown requested where low numbers are involved as we believe that disclosure of information with this level of granularity is exempt under Section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOI Act, where disclosure to a member of the public would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. The data protection principles are set out in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation.

The likelihood exists that individuals who are the subject of this information may be identified either from this information alone, or in combination with other available information. In addition to this, this information has the potential to be considered sensitive personal data (medical cases); NHS Resolution believes it has a greater responsibility to protect those individuals identities', as disclosure could potentially cause damage and/or distress to those involved.

You asked; *'when that referral was the fourth or subsequent time that the individual Consultant had been referred to NCAS'*.

A report run by Practitioner Performance Advice to determine this information found that no employer, or practitioner had requested advice from Practitioner Performance Advice for a fourth time about an individual consultant, three was the maximum in the years 2009-2018.

Therefore, the *'maximum number of times that any individual Consultant had been referred to NCAS'* as per your request is three.

FOI 4042

You asked *'for the year 2010-2019 the number of individual medical practitioners subject to MHPS investigation on more than one occasion? Please specify how many had 2, 3, 4 or more? How many returned to clinical practice in the same trust?'*

We do not collect this information on our database in a way that is searchable, so we are unable to provide you with a response.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are not satisfied with the service that you have received in response to your information request, it is open to you to make a complaint and request a formal review of our decisions. If you choose to do this, you should write to [Tinku Mitra](#), Head of Corporate and Information Governance for NHS Resolution, within 28 days of your receipt of this reply. Reviews of decisions made in relation to information requests are carried out by a person who was not involved in the original decision-making about the request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of the decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the local complaints procedure. The address of the Information Commissioner's Office is:

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Water Lane
Wilmslow
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