

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

23-24213

Date response sent

30/08/23

Subject

Monthly Finance Report for July 2023

Details of enquiry

Please provide a copy of your trusts monthly finance report relating to July 2023 (Month 4 23/24) financial information.

Response sent

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST

Your request for information, as detailed in your email below, has been considered in line with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOIA) Act 2000.

We confirm that the Trust holds the information you have requested, however it is being withheld from disclosure under s22 of FOIA 2000 because it is intended for future publication. The Trust's monthly Finance Report for July 2023 will be published in due course as part of the papers for the 14th September 2023 Council of Governors Meeting at [Council of Governors meetings and papers \(tavistockandportman.nhs.uk\)](https://tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/council-of-governors-meetings-and-papers)

You may be interested to note that the finance reports are also published within the papers for the Board of Directors meetings, and their next meeting is scheduled to take place 11th October, for which the papers will be published, closer to the date of the meeting, at [Board meetings and board papers \(tavistockandportman.nhs.uk\)](https://tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/board-meetings-and-board-papers)

Under section 22 of FOIA 2000 the Trust is not obliged to provide information intended for future publication, subject to the outcome of a public interest test, which weighs up whether the public interest in disclosing the information now, outweighs the public interest in withholding it until its publication date. (NB: Public interest is defined here as the public good and in the public interest, and not what is of interest to the public, nor the private interests of the requester.)

In line with the terms of this exemption, we weighed up whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with this information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable.

We took into account the following factors:

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure:

- Disclosure now of the July 2023 Finance Report would provide increased transparency via an earlier than planned release.

- Disclosure of the information under FOIA would be consistent with the Trust's intentions to proactively release data on matters of a wider public interest.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information:

- It is in the wider interest that information is accessible to the public domain by adhering to the Trust's publication schedule, to ensure that it has adequate time to complete all planned data checks prior to final publication within papers for the Board of Directors and Council of Governors meetings.
- Whilst there is a public interest in providing information within scope of an FOI request as quickly as possible, this needs to be balanced with the public interest in ensuring the data can be accessed simultaneously by the general public rather than piecemeal by disclosure to a small number of applicants under FOIA.
- An early release of this data, in advance of its publication schedule would have the effect of preceding the scheduled publicly available issue of papers for the next Council of Governors and Board of Directors meetings, where members and the public have a rightful expectation to see latest available and newly published data.

Balance of Weight: In the Public Interest

We have concluded that, on balance, the weight of public interest is in withholding this information until the publication of meeting papers for the next Council of Governors meeting (14th September 2023) are published.

I hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you are dissatisfied, you can ask us to carry out an internal review of our handling of your request. You can request a review by emailing us at FOI@tavi-port.nhs.uk. Your review will be carried out by a senior officer within the Trust. If you remain dissatisfied following completion of our internal review, you have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/> or visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/privacy-notice/how-you-can-contact-us/>