

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

19-20325

Date sent

13/02/2020

Subject

Early Pubertal Suppression Study

Details of enquiry

Out of the 44 children who were prescribed puberty blockers (GnRHa) in the study “Early pubertal suppression in a carefully selected group of adolescents with gender identity disorder” (Research Ethics Committee number 10/H0713/79), how many subsequently progressed to cross-sex hormones?

Response Sent

We can confirm that the Trust holds the information that you have asked for. However, it is being withheld from disclosure under s22 of FOIA 2000 because, at the time of writing, it has been submitted for future publication to a peer-reviewed journal.

Under s22 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. (NB: Public interest is defined here as the public good, and not what is of interest to the public, nor the private interests of the requester)

In conducting the public interest test, the following factors were taken into account:

Public interest considerations for immediate disclosure of the information

- *Disclosure would improve transparency in the operations of the clinical service*
- *Disclosure of the information under FOIA would be consistent with the Trust's commitment to proactively publish data on matters of a wider public interest*

Public interest considerations for maintaining the exemption to withholding the information until its publication

- *The information requested relates to the care provided to young people experiencing distress around their gender, and this is a topic widely debated in the public sphere that deserves properly informed discussion.*
- *The paper submitted to a peer-reviewed journal presents the information in a fuller, wider context therefore enabling a more informed discussion. that that afforded under FOI for a single question and answer*

Having considered the above factors, the conclusions of the public interest test were that the public interest in maintaining the exemption to withhold the information until its publication date outweighed the public interest in its immediate disclosure.