

Ref: FOI/ID 7391

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone, Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net
www.mtw.nhs.uk

21 April 2022

Thank you for your request for information in relation to cardiology referrals received on 19 April 2022.

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent to the same or similar information

The Trust has received a number of requests for the same or similar information from different email addresses and is therefore aggregating the requests.

The Trust is applying Section 12(4) of the FOI Act to the requests for this information received since 19 April 2022 and will provide one response which will be published on our website. (www.mtw.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information).

Aggregation of requests – When a public authority is estimating whether the appropriate limit is likely to be exceeded, it can include the costs of complying with two or more requests if the conditions laid out in regulation 5 of the Fees Regulations can be satisfied. Those conditions require the requests to be:

- * made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- * made for the same or similar information; and
- * received by the public authority within any period of 60 consecutive working days.

Please see the following link for further details:

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf

The ICO gives the following advice to organisations regarding the cost of requests.

“The Act recognises that freedom of information requests are not the only demand on the resources of a public authority. They should not be allowed to cause a drain

on your time, energy and finances to the extent that they negatively affect your normal public functions. When calculating the costs of complying, you can aggregate (total) the costs of all related requests you receive within 60 working days from the same person or from people who seem to be working together.

You are only required to estimate whether the limit would be exceeded. You do not have to do the work covered by the estimate before deciding to refuse the request.”

Once completed the original request will be published on the Trust website <http://www.mtw.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/> and under Section 22 of the Act you will be able to source the information you have requested from there.