

**Our ref:** FOI 492/JLD  
**Your ref:**  
**Please ask for:** Karl Milner  
**Direct Line:** (0113) 2952028  
**E-mail:** karl.milner@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk

**Blenheim House  
West One  
Duncombe Street  
Leeds  
LS1 4PL**

7 April 2010

Tel: 0113 295 2000

Dear

### **Freedom of Information Act Request**

I refer to your email received on 9 March 2010 in which you requested the following information:

1. All documents, including e-mails, letters, consultations, briefings or reports, produced or commissioned by Primary Care Trusts, Acute Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities concerning:
  - a. Current efficiency saving and/or planned future efficiency savings
  - b. Plans, considerations or consultations regarding re-configuration of services
  - c. Any considerations, plans, discussions or consultations of any proposals for changes to staffing levels and/or cuts in staffing level
  - d. Any considerations, plans, discussions or consultations on compulsory redundancies
  - e. Any predictions for or considerations of reducing staff by way of natural wastage, including but not limited to the likely savings made from such natural wastage
  - f. Plans, considerations or consultations regarding the freezing or reduction of pay progression increments
  - g. Plans, considerations or consultations regarding reductions to the number of pay points in Agenda for Change bands
  - h. Any considerations, plans, discussions or consultations of reconfiguration of the ratio of clinical to non-clinical staff
  - i. Plans, considerations or consultations regarding changes, amendments, variations or other alterations to the net and total expenditure on external suppliers and contractors
  - j. Plans, considerations or consultations regarding changes to sickness management for staff with the object of reducing or minimising the amount of time lost to sickness

2. Any financial predictions, estimates, reports, or accounts produced by Primary Care Trusts, Acute Trusts or Strategic Health Authorities, within your possession in respect of the requests above.
3. Any financial predictions, estimates, reports and/or accounts produced by Primary Care Trusts, Acute Trusts, or Strategic Health Authorities, within your possession regarding or pertaining to amendments, variations, reductions or changes to the level of pension entitlement for staff and the date(s) when any such changes to entitlements shall or are expected to become effective.

I can confirm that the SHA holds information relevant to your request. The scope of your request is very broad. We consider that to identify, locate, review and collate all of the information you have requested from all of the formats stipulated in your request would exceed the limit of our obligation under the Act. Section 12 of the FOI Act 2000 confirms that there is no obligation to comply with a request for information where the total cost of doing so would exceed 'the appropriate limit'. In the case of public bodies such as the NHS, the 'appropriate limit' has been set at £450 with a rate of £25 per hour (equating to 18 hours' effort in total).

There is information that is within the scope of your request that we can provide or signpost for you. Once you have had an opportunity to consider this you may be able to refine the terms of your request to enable us to provide a full response.

a) Current or planned efficiency saving

The SHA's approach to Quality, Innovation, Prevention and Productivity (QIPP) is set out in a report to the January 2010 meeting of the SHA Board. This is attached, together with a slide presentation made to the same meeting.

Healthy Ambitions is our clinically-led vision for improving health and healthcare in Yorkshire and the Humber. Good quality care can realise savings. Poor quality care often costs more. Delivering Healthy Ambitions – Better for Less is a response to the changed economic climate in which we are seeking to improve NHS care and identifies specific opportunities to deliver the best patient care more efficiently. You can access the Better for less publications via the following link:

<http://www.healthyambitions.co.uk/BetterForLess>

We are intending to publish more detailed regional QIPP plans in the early summer.

b) Plans, considerations or consultations regarding reconfiguration of services

Consultations on proposals to make significant changes to the way in which services are currently provided are subject to public consultation by the relevant PCT. Details of current and past consultations can be found on PCT websites:

[http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/local\\_nhs](http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/local_nhs)

Prospective reconfigurations are subject to the SHA's Service Change Assurance Process (SCAP). Currently there are no additional proposals undergoing assurance.

Information about SCAP is published on the SHA's website and can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/what\\_we\\_do/improving\\_patient\\_care\\_and\\_service\\_quality/service\\_development\\_and\\_reconfiguration/service\\_change\\_assurance\\_process/](http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/what_we_do/improving_patient_care_and_service_quality/service_development_and_reconfiguration/service_change_assurance_process/)

- d) The SHA has not discussed or consulted on compulsory redundancies.
- f) The SHA has not planned or consulted on freezing or reduction of pay progression
- g) Agenda for Change pay bands

Agenda for Change is a national pay framework. Individual NHS organisations employing staff on Agenda for Change pay scales are subject to the national scheme. Details of the framework are published and can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Workforce/Paypensionsandbenefits/Agendaforchange/DH\\_424](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Workforce/Paypensionsandbenefits/Agendaforchange/DH_424)

Foundation trusts (FTs) have the ability to determine their own pay frameworks and scales outside of Agenda for Change. The SHA does not hold information on the detailed arrangements in place within individual FTs.

The other elements of your request relate to aspects of current and ongoing consideration of efficiencies and how these might best be achieved. I can confirm that the SHA holds information relevant to your request. Notwithstanding our conclusion on the scale of your request and our ability to comply within the appropriate limit, I hope it is helpful to set out in general terms our current considerations in terms of this part of your request.

Section 36 (2)(b)(i) and (ii) exempts from release information whose disclosure has the potential to inhibit the free and frank exchange of views or the provision of advice. Those asked to contribute towards sensitive discussions should be able to do so with confidence and without inhibition, with such discussions protected from disclosure until final decisions are made and properly communicated.

The prospective actions that you have identified, if considered, would be subject to negotiations and consultations, including through formal mechanisms, for example, in accordance with employment legislation. We would therefore need to consider the applicability of this exemption to the release of this information at the present time, given that planning is at an early scoping stage and the extent of savings is still to be confirmed.

I trust we have responded to your request appropriately. If you are unhappy with this response please contact me in the first instance.

If you have any further concerns about our response you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl Milner', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Karl Milner**  
Director of Communications and Public Relations