

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_106_19

You asked:

I would like to request the release of the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

- Any 'no deal' Brexit impact assessments carried out by the health board.

If any confidentiality agreement has been placed on the health board as a means of not disclosing this information, please provide a copy of that agreement.

Our response:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 17 of the Act.

The Health Board can confirm that it does hold the information requested. However, the Health Board believes that to release the requested information could cause premature financial harm, be detrimental to the economic interests of the Health Board and put public wellbeing at risk. The disclosure of this information could jeopardise the ability of the Health Board to enter into arrangements with providers and therefore reduce the ability to obtain the best value for money and maintain the services provided. Section 29 of the Act states: Information is exempt if disclosure under the Act would, or would be likely to prejudice:

- The economic interests of the UK or any part of it, or
- The financial interests of any administration in the UK, as defined by Section 28(2).

In considering the application of the Section 29 exemption, the Health Board accepts that there is a public interest in the risks to the Health Board associated with leaving the European Union without a deal. However, the Health Board believes that disclosure of this information would impact on the Health Board being able to manage risks and on the ability to negotiate and obtain the best value for money in the event of a no deal Brexit. Therefore, the Health Board considers that maintaining financial stability and the ability to negotiate with providers to maintain services provided by the Health Board in the event of a no deal Brexit, outweighs the benefit of the release of this information.

I can confirm that no confidentiality agreement has been placed on the health board as a means of not disclosing this information.