

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_488_22

You asked:

I would like to know whether NHS chaplains at the trust or other NHS chaplains have made comments after seeing patients who believe themselves to be possessed.

Please send me all case notes and/or email correspondence from 2022 which describes an NHS chaplain commenting on a patient and includes any of the following words:

"Possessed," "spirit," "jinn," "jin," "gin," "shayatin," "afarit," "exorcism," "devil," "satan," "satanic," "demon," "evil," "infestation," "subjection," "spectra," "occult," "witch," "Iblis," "nafs," "waswās," "dybbuk," "zebola," "awre," "sagwara," "shaitani," "gamba," "kitimiri," "inwatso," "loa," "iwa," "chwal," "māra," "kuei," "shaman," "Bhūtavidyā," "Bhaironji," "peye," "setan,"

Please also send case notes and/or email correspondence from 2022 which describes an NHS chaplain commenting on a patient and includes any of the same words in their plural forms.

NOTE: I of course would not expect to be sent full case notes or discussions of patients that would identify them — just the relevant sections of text with the names and any other identifiers redacted.

Our response:

The Health Board does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to respond to your request to the level of detail required.

As this is not information that the Health Board routinely compiles, we would have to carry out a specific exercise to collate this data. From our preliminary assessment, we estimate to provide you with this information would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Further to this, all conversations are confidential and would not be disclosed by the Chaplains, unless to prevent harm.

Therefore, the Health Board also believes that the data requested is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.