

FOI 0420_2023 Response

Request

Thank you for your response to my FOI request.

Please can you conduct an internal review.

****Internal review on FOI_0172_2023, FOI 0295_2023 and FOI 0368_2023

Response

An internal review was conducted for FOI 0172_2023, FOI 0295_2023 and FOI 0368_2023.

The internal review was carried out by the Deputy Director of Finance, using input and advice from the Local Counter Fraud Specialist Service and the Head of Financial Services, and they remain of the opinion that the requested information cannot be provided to the extent that you have requested.

This opinion is based on there being a heightened risk of fraud or malicious loss which the Trust had experienced in the past, whereby fraudsters targeted the Trust using false invoice information to chase for payments. As a result of this, and without the prompt intervention of the Trusts bankers and Finance Team, the Trust would have experienced significant financial loss.

As your request is asking for granular and detailed breakdown of outstanding invoice debt, disclosing such information could make it easier for fraudsters to single out particular invoices or companies and impersonate them, and therefore end up deceiving the Trust by chasing for debt/payment.

The Trust asserts that the detailed requested information cannot be provided as we have an obligation and responsibility to protect the Trust and the wider public from fraudulent activities.

The Trust does acknowledge that initially for FOI 0172_2023, the wrong exemption was applied, for which we sincerely apologise.

We also recognise a level of transparency is necessary for a public facing body. Which is why we routinely release our financial transparency spend, demonstrating where money allocated to the Trust is spent, as noted in the response provided for FOI 0295_2023.