Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/31670

26 July 2024

Regional benchmarking exercise - hospital dispensary staffing

A regional trust benchmarking and skill-mix exercise has been carried out which covered staffing in hospital dispensaries.

Can you please provide the report, in particular aspects relating to hospital dispensary staffing?

Given the time elapsed since previously requested and the publication of technician requirements within the public domain, a S22 response would not appear to be reasonable reason for refusal at this point.

We can advise that a draft report was presented to Trust Heads of Pharmacy (HPMM) in April 2023. HPMM requested that the workforce model was tested before the report was approved. This testing has not taken place due to Encompass.

Encompass is a Health and Social Care programme that will create a single digital care record for every citizen in Northern Ireland who receives health and social care. The workforce model needs to be revisited as we learn how Encompass has affected the workflow and staff. This is likely to be completed after June 2025.

Exemption Section 22 Information intended for future publication, is still therefore applicable.

For the exemption in section 22 to apply, the public authority must, at the time of the request, hold the information and intend that it or 'any other person' will publish it in future. This means that it must have a settled expectation that the information will be published at some future date.

13. So a public authority may still be able to apply section 22 if:

- there is a publication deadline, but publication could be at any date before then; Information intended for future publication and research information (sections 22 and 22A)
- publication will take place once other actions have been completed;
- publication will take place by reference to other related events; or
- there is a draft publication schedule that hasn't been finalised.

As this model requires testing, it is not appropriate to release the report at this time until the testing has been fully completed. Testing will not happen until after the Encompass programme is fully embedded.