

LANARKSHIRE NHS BOARD



Mr Robert Freel

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Date: 30th May 2012
Your Ref:
Our Ref: IAR/RM

Enquiries to: Rita Morris
Direct Line: 01698 858201
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Dear Mr Freel

### **Freedom of Information: Request for Review**

I refer to your e-mail of 5 May 2012 and to your request for review of the response you received in relation to your request, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), for the following information in relation to the Active Health Programme:-

- A) How many patients in the last five years have been referred to the Active Health Programme?
- B) How many stroke patients are cared for by the (community assessment and rehabilitation service) CARS team and what budget do they have for care, excluding salaries
- C) How many physiotherapists work for the CARS team?
- D) Do muscular skeletal physio clinics accept stroke patients?
- E) What physiotherapy clinics can a GP refer stroke patients to and where are they located in Lanarkshire.

I note that in the response by the Freedom of Information Officer you were provided with the number of physiotherapists working for the CARS team and an explanation of the clinics a GP could refer stroke patients to. You were advised that the muscular skeletal physiotherapy clinics accepted stroke patients.

You were also advised that the budget for the CARS team was part of a larger budget and could not be separated out, that to find the number of stroke patients cared for by the CARS team and the number of patients referred to the Active Health Programme in the last five years would necessitate a manual trawl through the patient records which would cost more than £600 to provide and was exempt under the freedom of information legislation.

I have now reviewed the original response you were sent and have taken into account your comments in your request for review regarding the fact that we have not answered part B of the request to your satisfaction.

I have spoken to the Freedom of Information Officer, looked at the information we hold, obtained further details about the service the CARS team provide and the process followed by the CARS team when recording information.

#### Budget of the CARS team

You were advised that the budget for the CARS team was part of a larger budget and could not be separated out.

I note that you feel that we must allocate a budget to the CARS team and that this budget must be known.

I can advise that the CARS team is part of the overall older people's budget under the delayed discharge part of the service. When patients are referred to the CARS team they provide an immediate intervention for a patient for a specific reason. The patient will then be referred to the appropriate service for any ongoing support they require. The CARS team does not treat patients for a long period of time and, therefore, in the main does not require a budget other than their salaries. I note that as stated in your original response you do not want to receive this particular cost.

I am of the view that the freedom of information officer answered this part of your request correctly in advising you that the information was not held.

#### Number of Stroke Patients

You were advised that to find the number of stroke patients cared for by the CARS team would require a manual trawl through the patient records.

I note that you thought this type of information was integral to statistical reporting and that it must be recorded or be able to be withdrawn from our systems.

CARS is a multi-disciplinary team that supports many patients with complex needs on hospital discharge.

Patients are referred with a variety of diagnosis. Often they have multiple health issues and would not necessarily be categorised by condition. There may be patients who have had a stroke at some point in the past but attend hospital due to a different issue. Obviously a clinical team dealing with the patient will know whether or not they have had a stroke.

The only way to find the total number of stroke patients supported by the CARS team, however, would be to go through all the patient records over the last five years to ascertain if any of the patients presented with stroke as part of their condition. This would be a large task and under the legislation would be exempt due to the cost of providing the information.

I am of the view that the freedom of information officer answered this part of your request correctly in advising you that the information was cost exempt.

I have, however, also investigated what information on patients the CARS team does collect. Although they cannot provide a definitive number of stroke patients seen by them over the last five years, they can provide the number of patients since 2008 where the main reason for admission was stroke. What the figures cannot tell you is the number of patients referred to CARS who may have had a stroke at some other point and may also have multiple health issues.

Having reviewed the information you were provided with on the number of stroke patients cared for by the CARS team and the budget held by them, I am of the view that your request was dealt with fully and, therefore, do not uphold your request for review.

I have, however, provided you with information on the number of patients with a main condition of stroke cared for by the CARS team since 2008 below:-

| <b>Year</b>  | <b>Total number patients through RADAR/ESD/CARS Service *</b> | <b>Number patients with primary diagnosis of stroke</b> | <b>%</b>           |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>2008</b>  | 922                                                           | 193                                                     | 20.9               |
| <b>2009</b>  | 1097                                                          | 233                                                     | 21.2               |
| <b>2010</b>  | 942                                                           | 209                                                     | 22.2               |
| <b>2011</b>  | 1021                                                          | 194                                                     | 19                 |
| <b>2012</b>  | 667                                                           | 84                                                      | 13                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4649</b>                                                   | <b>913</b>                                              | <b>Ave. 19.26%</b> |

\*RADAR – Rapid Access to diagnostics and rehabilitation



ESD – Early supported discharges

These teams have now been combined to form CARS.

I hope that what I have provided is of assistance to you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, I have reviewed the decision by the FOI Officer and believe that NHS Lanarkshire answered your request correctly.

I can, however, confirm that in terms of FOISA if you are dissatisfied with my review of the decision you may make application to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receipt of this letter for a decision on whether your request and review has been dealt with in accordance with the Act. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9DS or by telephone on 01334 464610, by fax on 01334 464611, and by E-mail at xxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx

I must also advise that the Freedom of Information legislation makes provision for an appeal, on a point of law, to the Court of Session against any decision made by the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Ross', with a stylized flourish above the name.

**IAN A ROSS**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**