



Carol Collins
Head of Business Support, PCC
Patient and Client Council
5th Floor, 14-16 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7BA

6th October 2023

By Email
[REDACTED]

Ref: FOI 2056

Dear [REDACTED],

Your request for information was received on 3rd October 2023 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Patient Client Council (PCC) has now reviewed your request for information in relation to payments made to an Associate:

Having learned that public money will be wasted in [REDACTED], and I assume he has not been paid yet, I withdraw my complaint.

That money should be better spent.

Under FOI

Has he been paid ? / how much?

The PCC is of the view that the data requested is the personal data of the named individual.

As such, I should advise you that the PCC deems this information to be exempt from disclosure on the grounds of Section 40 (3A)(a) (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This exemption is absolute and no public interest test is required. The identification of named individuals or information that would identify them constitutes personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and disclosing it would breach the fair processing principle set out in the DPA.

The PCC is further cognisant of previous ICO decision notices IC-202129-C6F2 and IC-237068-Z7K5, whereby they upheld refusals to release fees paid, on the basis that disclosure would contravene a data protection principle. As such, the PCC is using these decision notices to support its decision not to disclose this personal data in response to your request.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the PCC, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to The Business Services Organisation (BSO), which provides an Information Governance service on our behalf:

Post: Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

Email: foi.bso@hscni.net

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PCC has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: icocasework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,



Carol Collins

Head of Business Support, PCC