

Corporate Administration

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
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Telephone: 0141 201 4444

Uma Zalakain

SENT BY EMAIL TO:
ping@umazalakain.info

Date	13 November 2020
Your Ref	
Our Ref	FOI 16358
Direct Line	Working remotely
Email	foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
Contact	

Dear Uma Zalakain

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND REGULATIONS 2004)

Thank you for your request received on 20 October 2020 for the provision of the following information:-

I have been made aware that it was the Glasgow LMC's decision to advise medical practitioners in the Greater Glasgow area not to provide transgender patients with transgender-specific healthcare unless they were already managed by Sandyford GIC. This excludes patients of gender specialists from reaching a shared care arrangement with their general practitioners. I would like to know more about the specifics of this policy, and I would be grateful if you could point me towards the pertinent documents.

*The General Medical Council has released new guidance in which it specifies that practitioners *must* follow the prescription recommendations of gender specialists: 'If you're a GP you should collaborate with a Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) and/or an experienced gender specialist to provide effective and timely treatment for your trans patients.' You will find the relevant advice here: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-hub/trans-healthcare#prescribing>*

We are treating your request under our procedures for responding to requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information that we are able to provide in response to your request is given below.

We have been advised by our colleagues at Sandyford that we do not have a policy advising that transgender patients should not be provided with transgender-specific healthcare unless they are already under the care of Sandyford Gender Identity Clinic. Under Section 17 of FOISA I am required to inform you that NHSGGC does not hold the information requested.

In responding to you we must explain that the LMC is not part of NHSGGC and so we do not record information specific to them. Under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 we are unable to pass your request on to a third party but we recommend that you contact the LMC and they may be able to assist you further. We should explain that the LMC is not considered to be a

Scottish public authority and as such is not covered by FOISA. While they are not legally obliged to respond to a request for information, they may be willing to do so. To assist you we are providing a link to their webpage which has contact details:

<https://www.glasgowlmc.co.uk/>

Under our obligation to provide advice and assistance, we can also tell you that colleagues approached the LMC about this issue and were advised the December 2019 LMC newsletter contained an article about trans healthcare and we are providing a link to it:

https://www.glasgowlmc.co.uk/download/Newsletters/lmc_newsletters_2019/LMC-eNews-Dec-19.pdf

It explains that the LMC is often asked by GPs about treatment for gender dysphoria and referrals to local Gender Identity Clinics. GPs are always referred to the GMC guidance which you have mentioned in your request, (also included within the newsletter at the earlier link) which also emphasises how important it is that doctors follow the GMC's guidance, especially the section about Mental Health and Bridging Prescriptions:

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-hub/trans-healthcare>

When responding to GPs' individual enquiries about treatment requests in practices, the LMC advise us that they refer the GPs to the GMC guidance (link as provided above) in how the practice responds, and in particular to the GMC statement, "If you feel you lack knowledge and experience about the healthcare needs of trans people you should ask for advice from an experienced gender specialist and address your training need. An experienced gender specialist is someone who will have evidence of relevant training and at least two years' experience working in a specialized gender dysphoria practice such as an NHS GIC."

In some enquiries to the LMC, they tell us there is a question about the interface between private and NHS treatment. In relation to this issue, they refer the GP to the Scottish Government Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) letter (SGHD/CMO(2009)3 25 March 2009) about the arrangements for NHS patients receiving private care:

[https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2009\)private.pdf](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2009)private.pdf)

They also emphasise that LMC has been in discussion with Sandyford and Glasgow City HSCP about improving the support for GPs and patients for trans healthcare.

I hope that this is helpful. If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you have a right to request a review of this decision within 40 working days of receiving this response. The attached note describes our review procedure. Your request for review must be in permanent form and should state:

- That you are asking for a review of this decision and
- Why you are unhappy with the response you have received.

If you wish us to carry out a review, please complete the form enclosed and return it to the Head of Corporate Governance and Administration, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Corporate HQ, JB Russell House, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH or by email to foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

If following a review you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to ask for advice, assistance or to make a formal appeal in writing to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receiving the outcome of a review. The Commissioner can be contacted at: Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS or at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

If following appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner you still remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law against the decision of the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Should you require any clarification about this letter or the right to request a review please contact me at the details at the top of the first page of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Kay Dougans

Kay Dougans
Freedom of Information Officer

Standard Enclosures:

FOI Requirement for Review document

Request for Review Form