



By email to: []

Date: 23 September 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 request

Dear [],

Thank you for your email of 25 August 2021, which we received on 25 August 2021, and an acknowledgement was sent to you on 1 September 2021, asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Please could you provide us with the following information for the time period 1 January 2018 to 31 July 2021 (inclusive). If this exceeds the time/cost exemption, please could you just provide information for the period 1 January to 1 January 2019.

- 1. Details of any funded or sponsored posts in cardiology from charities, pharmaceutical or technology companies.*
- 2. Details of any funded/sponsored/gifted equipment/software in cardiology.*
- 3. Information about any educational events relating to cardiology which were sponsored by any pharmaceutical or technology companies or sponsored by charities.*

Our responses are:

1. Details of any funded or sponsored posts in cardiology from charities, pharmaceutical or technology companies.

The AHSN received a Pfizer Independent Grant for Learning and Change (IGLC) of £99,804 in November 2017, which lasted until September 2019. This was to support a project to improve the identification and management of patients with Atrial Fibrillation (AF) to reduce stroke risk. The AHSN completed this work with one of our partner CCGs. This grant funded the time of a contractor AF clinician and a part-time pharmacy technician to complete the patient record reviews for the period of the project.

The AHSN received a share of a Pfizer Quality Improvement Grant (from national funding for AHSNs) of £68,599.51 in July 2019, and which was due to last until December 2021. This was to fund a project to optimise anticoagulation by improving the counselling pathway across secondary, primary, and community care, and was completed with one of our partner acute trusts. The funding supported the secondment of pharmacist from the trust to carry out the work, and a contractor AF clinician. The work for this project has been completed other than the production and publication of a final report. The processes used during the project to support the improvement of patient counselling have been embedded into the trust as business-as-usual.

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VAT Registration No. 185 4528 80



In 2017, the AHSN received a Medical Educational Goods and Services (MEGS) grant from Pfizer, for just under £20,000, to support the rollout of AliveCor devices to the AHSN's partners across Wessex. This grant paid for an independent contractor, on an ad-hoc basis, to support training in the use of the device. Much of this grant was spent before the requested timeframe; however, some final training took place in late 2019, and was paid in early 2020.

2. Details of any funded/sponsored/gifted equipment/software in cardiology.

Nil.

3. Information about any educational events relating to cardiology which were sponsored by any pharmaceutical or technology companies or sponsored by charities.

The AHSN received a Bayer MEGS Grant in January 2020 and have spent £10,777. This grant was to support the creation of educational atrial fibrillation videos – featuring patients and cardiac and AF specialists - for clinical staff to use as an educational resource.

During March 2018, Bristol Myers Squibb paid three fees to attend three separate training events, held by the AHSN's Atrial Fibrillation programme, with a promotional stand. These break down as:

19/03/2018 - £791.67 – event in Salisbury
19/03/2018 - £375 – event in Southampton
19/03/2018 - £791.67 – event in Wimborne

Pfizer also attended one of the events with a promotional stand, and paid as such:

31/03/2018 - £416.67 – event in Southampton

If you are dissatisfied with this response, please come back to me and I will ensure that your concerns are addressed by the relevant AHSN's Freedom of Information complaints contact. You also have the right to request a decision from the Information Commissioner (ICO) as to whether we have discharged our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The ICO can be contacted at:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Bill Gillespie
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