

# APPENDIX 4

Freedom of Information Requests issued in this exercise and notification of publication.

## **FOI Request 1:**

Dear FOI Officer for [CCG name]

Specialist Palliative Services

On behalf of Baroness Finlay, I write to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I thank you in advance for your effort in meeting this request. If you believe you are not able to answer any of our questions for whatever reason, I can be contacted on 0207 219 6693 to advise and assist.

We seek information relating to the level of specialist palliative care<sup>[1]</sup> that you commission, specifically: Access to Specialist Palliative Care and the availability of 24/7 services.

Public Interest

79% of people say they would prefer to die at home, in a familiar place surrounded by friends and loved ones. However, only half of people who want to die at home actually die there.<sup>[2]</sup>

Provision of coordinated services was a key aim of the Department of Health's End of Life Care Strategy and this remains a national priority. It was one of the Department of Health's Quality Innovation Productivity & Prevention (QIPP) priority areas and was included in the NHS Operating Framework for 2014/15. Whilst there has been much progress at a local level over recent years in improving end of life care, there remains considerable variation in quality and coverage across the country.

The recent Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman Report Dying without Dignity recently highlighted the urgent needs to improve end-of-life care and provide comprehensive 7 day a week care. As such Baroness Finlay has tabled her Access to Palliative Care Bill<sup>[3]</sup> in the House of Lords.

Baroness Finlay is making this FOIA request to all 209 Clinical Commissioning Group's across the country in order to identify the current gaps in service provision in access to specialist palliative care help and advice for terminally ill patients and their families across the week.

This information is being requested to help improve services and ensure that there is equitable access to specialist palliative care services, as defined in her Access to Palliative Care Bill, which is due to have its second reading this autumn. There is therefore a strong public interest in favour of full disclosure.

Request (See Appendix 1)

Concluding remarks

We would ask you to please you keep within the 20 day time limit, that is, by [DATE]. If you require 40 days to meet the request, we respectfully ask you to ensure you keep within that limit. We do appreciate that your resources are limited and we are grateful for your time.

We do not anticipate that any exemptions will apply, but if you consider otherwise, please carefully note the public interest in favour of disclosure and specify the precise reasons for your refusal.

We look forward to receiving a substantive response within 20 days. Please respond by email to [downmanm@parliament.uk](mailto:downmanm@parliament.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Maxwell Downman

## **FOI Request 2:**

Dear FOI Officer for [CCG name]

Thank you for acknowledging our Freedom of Information request [FOI Request number if provided] dated the [DATE]. Due to preliminary feedback to our initial questions we have slightly revised the questions. It would be greatly appreciated if you could answer the new set of questions, rather than the ones previously sent out. Please see the amended version below.

With kind regards,

Maxwell

Specialist Palliative Services

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Public Interest

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Baroness Finlay is making this FOIA request to all 211 Clinical Commissioning Group's across the country in order to identify the current gaps in service provision in access to specialist palliative care help and advice for terminally ill patients and their families across the week.

This information is being requested to help improve services and ensure that there is equitable access to specialist palliative care services, as defined in her Access to Palliative Care Bill, which is due to have its second reading this autumn. There is therefore a strong public interest in favour of full disclosure.

Request (See Appendix 2)

Concluding remarks

We would ask you to please you keep within the 20 day time limit, that is, by [DATE]. If you require 40 days to meet the request, we respectfully ask you to ensure you keep within that limit. We do appreciate that your resources are limited and we are grateful for your time.

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Yours sincerely,

Maxwell Downman

**FOI Request 3:**

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With kind regards,

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#### Specialist Palliative Services

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#### Public Interest

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This information is being requested to help improve services and ensure that there is equitable access to specialist palliative care services, as defined in her Access to Palliative Care Bill, which is due to have its second reading this autumn. There is therefore a strong public interest in favour of full disclosure.

Request (See Appendix 3)

Concluding remarks

We would ask you to please you keep within the 20 day time limit, that is, by [DATE]. If you require 40 days to meet the request, we respectfully ask you to ensure you keep within that limit. We do appreciate that your resources are limited and we are grateful for your time.

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We look forward to receiving a substantive response within 20 days. Please respond by email to [downmanm@parliament.uk](mailto:downmanm@parliament.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Maxwell Downman

### **Notification of publication:**

Dear FOI Officer for [CCG name]

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015, we wrote on behalf of Baroness Finlay, to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for information relating to the level of specialist palliative care that you commission, specifically, access to specialist palliative care and the availability of 24/7 services. Thank you for your effort in meeting this request.

We have since compiled all the data received from 202 CCGs and would like to publish the data in an academic journal. We feel that this information could be used to help improve services and ensure that there is equitable access to specialist palliative care services. The information collected has also been used to inform the debate at second reading of Baroness Finlay's Private Member's Bill - the Access to Palliative Care Bill, on 23rd October 2015. There is therefore a strong public interest in favour of full disclosure.

I am writing today to notify you that we are currently in the process of writing an academic paper based on this data, and plan to publish the paper in the coming months.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you again for the information you have provided us and taking the time to fulfil this request.

With kind regards,

Harriet Lancaster  
Researcher to Professor the Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

### **Footnotes for Appendix 4:**

[1] For the avoidance of doubt, the term 'specialist palliative care' refers to care provided by professionals who have undergone specialist training in palliative care and who are members of a specialist palliative care team which includes specialists in palliative medicine and palliative nursing.

[2] National Survey of Bereaved People (VOICES), 2013 (July 2014)

[3] <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0013/16013.pdf>