

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7461

Please reply to:
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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to EPRR Coordination of emergency and disaster management activities.

You asked:

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following information. This information relates to the NHS England Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Framework in general and section 10, "Cycle of preparedness", section 13, "Concepts of command and control" and section 14, "NHS command and control", in particular.

Please note that the much of the information requested is only the records of the existence of committee membership, a meeting, training and responsibilities, and activities, list(s), procedures, mechanisms, arrangements and exercises and not the contents of the membership, meeting, training, responsibilities, activities, list(s), procedures, mechanisms, arrangements and exercises themselves.

Given the potentially sensitive nature of this information, I ask you to redact any exempt information instead of refusing disclosure. This would be in accordance with guidance on best practice from the Information Commissioner's Office.

If you do not hold some of this information then I ask you to confirm explicitly that you do not hold it.

Coordination of emergency and disaster management activities

Hospital Emergency / Disaster Committee

Any record of the current existence of a multi-departmental and multidisciplinary committee to coordinate EPRR measures. If such a committee exists then any record of which departments and disciplines are represented on it and the date the committee most recently met.

Committee member responsibilities and training

If such a committee above exists then any record that committee members have received training for their role on the committee and any record that committee members have been assigned specific responsibilities.

Designated emergency and disaster management coordinator

Any record of the current existence of a hospital emergency / disaster management coordinator. If such a co-ordinator exists then any record of what whole time equivalent of their time is devoted to emergency and disaster management.

Preparedness programme for strengthening emergency and disaster response and recovery

Any record that activities to strengthen EPRR have been implemented in the past 12 months.

Hospital incident management system

Any record of the current existence of list(s) of key personnel roles in a hospital incident management system for the command, control and coordination in an emergency or disaster response. If such list(s) exists then any record of the existence of corresponding key personnel role action procedure documents.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

Any record of the current existence of a designated Incident Coordination Centre. If such an Incident Coordination Centre exists then any record of whether it has full immediate operational capacity in an emergency.

Coordination mechanisms and cooperative arrangements with local emergency / disaster management agencies

Any record of the existence of current formal co-ordination or co-operation mechanisms or arrangements between the Trust and emergency/disaster management agencies (e.g. local authorities, police services, fire and rescue services, civil society organisations) in order to support Trust functions in time of emergency or disaster.

If such mechanisms or arrangements above exist then any record of the most recent exercise(s) to test them, including date(s) of exercise(s).

Coordination mechanisms and cooperative arrangements with the healthcare network

Any record of the existence of current formal co-ordination or co-operation mechanisms or arrangements between the Trust and other healthcare providers in order to support Trust functions in time of emergency or disaster.

If such mechanisms or arrangements above exist then any record of the most recent exercise(s) to test them, including date(s) of exercise(s).

Trust response:

Hospital Emergency / Disaster Committee:

We have a Resilience Committee that considers all types of planning & risk mitigation. This is an assurance committee – emergency planning is done by our team of professional emergency planners.

Committee member responsibilities and training:

Committee members do not need any training - they are experts in their field – e.g. Fire Officer, Paediatric ED Consultant.

Designated emergency and disaster management coordinator:

This is not NHS terminology; Do you mean emergency planning team or incident commanders? Can you please confirm exactly what information you require to allow us to respond to this question.

Preparedness programme for strengthening emergency and disaster response and recovery:

We produce an annual report to Board and have a work plan and a training programme

Hospital incident management system:

We use the standard Operational, Tactical and Strategic tiers. We have action cards for key post holders

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC):

Yes, it has immediate operational capacity but will ramp up as more teams arrive

Coordination mechanisms and cooperative arrangements with local emergency / disaster management agencies:

We do not have disaster management agencies as we are in the UK. We work together using the local resilience forum as per the Civil Contingencies Act. This is called the Local Resilience Forum

Coordination mechanisms and cooperative arrangements with the healthcare network:

This the Local Health Resilience Partnership