

**Private & Confidential**

[REDACTED]

1 April 2020

**Our Ref. FOIR 011 020**

**Re: – Decision to grant**

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to the following request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by the Health Information and Quality Authority:

I am formally requesting the following information in electronic form by email under the FOI act.

It appears that HIQA hand hygiene inspections have changed over the years.

I remember earlier reports provided data on actual hand hygiene compliance as verified by HIQA inspectors.

More recent reports only seem to provide data on reported hand hygiene training compliance.

Can you provide all reports, data and communications on who, when, why and how this change in inspection coverage was started, agreed and implemented?

Your request was received by this, the Health Information and Quality Authority, on 4 March 2020.

I, Geraldine Ryan, have now made a final decision to grant your request on 1 April 2020. I consider release of the information in electronic format as an appropriate form of access in this case. Accordingly, the schedule of documents and a copy of the records is now attached.

HIQA's inspection methodology against the National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infection has evolved over time to target emerging issues such as the proliferation of multidrug resistant organisms. The released documents explain the context of the changes to this methodology and outline the way in which this changing methodology was developed. If you have any queries, we are happy to discuss further on 01 8147486.

## Appeal Rights

In the event that you are not happy with this decision, you can seek an internal review by writing to the FOI Unit, George's Court, George's Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7, or by e-mail to [foi@hiqa.ie](mailto:foi@hiqa.ie). This appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Please note that a fee of €30 (or €10 if you are a medical card holder), applies to internal reviews. Please contact the FOI Unit for payment details.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this letter, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays; however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances.

Please note this Authority will publish a log of all non-personal Freedom of Information Requests received in 2020 on its website. If you have any queries regarding this correspondence you can contact the Freedom of Information office at 01 814 7486.

Yours sincerely,

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Geraldine Ryan  
Regional Manager