

Ref no: 155180914
From: Student
Date: 18/09/14
Subject: Remuneration Committee Meeting

REQUEST

I would like to make the following two requests:

1. The papers, minutes and agenda for all remuneration committee meetings from 2005/06 until the present – although I do appreciate that the earlier records might not be available (e.g. mergers/demerger/deleting records etc) and any records you have would be happily received.
2. The papers, minutes and agenda for all audit committee meetings from 2005/06 until the present – although I do appreciate that the earlier records might not be available and any records you do have would be happily received.

The purpose of this information is to understand the process of how corporate governance and more specifically how senior remunerations committees operate and how this has changed across time. This analysis will be used in my PhD thesis and future journal publications. My analysis includes all UK acute trusts (over 160 institutions) across as many years as possible, so hence no institution will be individually identifiable. I have successfully retrieved this data from other institutions and understand that these decisions are made on a case by case basis; so I would happily discuss this further and will give whatever assurances you need.

Based on my university ethics policy I have to abide by anonymity or non-identifiable groupings (e.g. small acute trust in the North-West etc). I and my supervisors have also signed confidentiality agreements with other local councils to assure them that we will give anonymity and not disclose these documents to anyone else. We will also happily do so again if you feel it is necessary. I appreciate that these documents contains personal information related to salaries; however, I anticipate that this data will not be used as income data has already been retrieved from the statement of accounts. The audit committee meeting will be used as a control variable between acute trusts to understand their organisational complexity.

I would strongly argue that understanding the process of senior remuneration and how it is changing is in the public interest; and the impact on individual councils or people will be completely minimal.

Your assistance is appreciated and I await your response as set out by the freedom of information act.

RESPONSE

Dear Applicant

Please be advised that the Trust has considered your request very carefully and whilst we wish to support your request we feel that some of the information in relation to the Remuneration Committee would be in breach of the Data Protection Act as personal details/information is discussed.

We will not be in a position to issue previous sets of Audit Committee notes as it will and has come to the decision to withhold this information in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act as to release the requested information we feel that this would prejudice the effective conduct of our affairs.

We have provided you with a set of the Terms of Reference for the Remuneration Committee and Audit Committee.

We hope the information is helpful to you in your research.