

**Freedom of Information – action following information Commissioners Tribunal**

- 21/323 *The Head of Public Accountability presented the lessons identified report in response to a recent ICO tribunal (enclosure MC/21/127). The Management Committee recognised the context of the findings, that this was a single occurrence in over 7000 cases which had been handled by the central team, while also examining its internal processes in response to the findings.*
- 21/324 *The lessons identified report had been undertaken by the PHE Complaints Manager, outside of the central FOI team who was not involved in the original case.*
- 21/325 *The tribunal had focused on the response to two requests related to the transfer of Ebola samples to [REDACTED]. The reasons for withholding disclosure were upheld by the Tribunal, which agreed with the PHE justifications related to health and safety, and security.*
- 21/326 *The lessons identified focused on the internal handling of the case. The issues of which had arisen as a result of the central team not being supplied with the information as requested by the team. This related both to the operational nature of the response at the time and the sensitivity of the material. To address this, the central team had been strengthened, with a quality assurance framework being embedded across the team's work and learning proactively shared on cases. A further organisation wide recommendation was to implement an organisation wide electronic documents and records management system. The Management Committee **ENDORSED** the recommendation and that it should be raised with UKHSA.*
- 21/327 *The Management Committee thanked the team for their ongoing work and the open and constructive way the report had addressed the Tribunal findings.*