

Request Reference: FOI/036/21

Published: 24 February 2022

Information requested:

I am retired psychiatrist living in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Just now I am busy with article about history of the treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts in the former Czechoslovakia.

Very important place in this history occupied Zdenek (Zdeněk) Janda MD, psychiatrist, born 14.1.1914. He worked in the psychiatric clinic of Karel's University in Prague and after or in 1968 he left for Great Britain. He was a pioneer in the treatment of alcoholics, treating them since 1946. He was the first one to introduce aversion therapy (emetine and apomorphine) in the treatment of alcoholics. Because of his emigration he fell into disgrace and was in former Czechoslovakia completely "erased" and forgotten.

I personally have Czech roots and speak Czech. I have in vain searched for information about doctor Zdeněk Janda in Czech republic after 1968. In the old number of the Lancet from November 7, 1970, page 989 I found the following among appointments: Janda, Zdenek DPM, Consultant Psychiatrist, State Hospital, Carstairs.

In my opinion he deserves glory instead of being forgotten that's why I'm working on his life history now.

I would be very happy to receive any suggestions and information about him from you. Does he have any descendants who could tell me about him? Or maybe even old employees? Or maybe there is something about him in your archive? In connection with General Data Protection, I realize all too well that these are very sensitive questions and that you probably cannot provide me with any information. But if there is someone who could inform me about doctor Zdeněk Janda then maybe there is the following possibility: Could you please give my email address to that person(s) to contact me?

Response:

We have searched our admission/discharge books, patient magazines as well as a variety of historically archived information from the time period, but we have not found any reference to doctor Zdeněk Janda.

We therefore give notice under section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2003 that we do not hold the information sought.

Advice and Guidance

Whilst undertaking the searches for this request, we identified that we could read through each historical patient record that we hold for the time period looking for a mention of doctor Zdeněk Janda, however such a search would cost more than the £600 maximum amount set for Freedom of Information requests.