



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-561

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 14th January 2019

Tel: 01782 676474
Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 21st December 2018 (received into our office 24th December) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding charges to overseas visitors.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because some of the information requested in your questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just questions 6, 7 and 8 we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 This request seeks information about decisions made under the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 (the ‘2015 Regulations’), amended most recently by the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. The Department of Health and Social Care has published national guidance on the implementation of the same entitled “Guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations” (May 2018). Please provide the following information:

Exemptions from charging for overseas visitors

1. For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals who were deemed exempt from charges for NHS services (including those who were deemed exempt at a later point pursuant to Regulation 6A of the 2015 Regulations) provided pursuant to:

a. Regulation 9 (f) of the 2015 Regulations in total



- b. Regulation 9 (f) (i) (torture)
- c. Regulation 9 (f) (ii) (female genital mutilation)
- d. Regulation 9 (f) (iii) (domestic violence)
- e. Regulation 9 (f) (iv) (sexual violence)

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above.

Q2 For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals deemed exempt from charges pursuant to:

- a. Regulation 10 (2) of the 2015 Regulations in total
- b. Regulation 10 (2) (a) (IHS paid)
- c. Regulation 10 (2) (b) (an exemption from the IHS applies)
- d. Regulation 10 (2) (c) (a reduction or waiver from the IHS applies)
- e. Regulation 10 (2) (d) (a partial refund of the IHS has been made)

A2 As answer 1

Q3 For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals deemed exempt from charges pursuant to 10 (2) of the 2015 Regulations for whom the relevant period is:

- a. As defined under Regulation 10 (1) (a) (the period of leave granted)
- b. As defined under Regulation 10 (1) (b) (extension of leave provisions)

A3 As answer 1

Q4 For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals deemed exempt (including those who were deemed exempt at a later point pursuant to Regulation 6 of the 2015 Regulations) from charges pursuant to:

- a. Regulation 15 of the 2015 Regulations in total
- b. Regulation 15 (a) and (aa) (those granted asylum and humanitarian protection and their dependents)
- c. Regulation 15 (b) and (ba) (those who have applied for asylum or humanitarian protection and their dependents)
- d. Regulation 15 (c) (those supported under s.95 Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)
- e. Regulation 15 (d) (i) (those supported under s.4 (2) Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)
- f. Regulation 15 (d) (iii) (those supported under Part 1 of the Care Act)
- g. Regulation 15 (e) (a child looked after by the local authority)

A4 As answer 1

Q5 For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals deemed exempt from charges pursuant to Regulation 16 (1) of the 2015 Regulations in total (please include those who were deemed exempt at a later point pursuant to Regulation 6

A5 As answer 1

Q6 NHS Debts for charges for overseas visitors

For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of invoices for NHS debts for overseas visitors' charges which have been written off for accounting purposes

A6 Nil

Q7 For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) what was the total sum of the debt for overseas visitors' charges that was written off for accounting purposes for each year within the Trust (at the rate charged to the Trust, that is, 75%)?

A7 Nil

Q8 Of the debts written off for accounting purposes at question 6 above, what was the average debt?

A8 Not applicable

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.



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Yours,

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance

