

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 22-026

7 February 2022

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

1) Between Feb 2020 and December 2021, did your Trust treat any overseas visitors or migrants (e.g. those usually subject to cost recovery provisions)?

Yes

If YES:

(a) How many of these were treated for COVID-19?

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

(b) How many of these patients did your Trust exempted for charges related to their treatment under the "Guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations (amended Feb 2020)"?

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

(c) If available, please provide nationalities (individual or coded by continent), ages and gender of these patients.

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information

that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore, please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged.

If NO:

(d) Prior to Feb 2020, did your Trust treat any overseas visitors or migrants and recover costs? If so, can you provide the cost recovery information for the preceding 5 years.

Not applicable

If YES or NO:

2) What, if any, training has been given in your trust to those engaged in cost recovery about the application of new provision around COVID-19 and the implementation of the amendments to the guidance on charging? If this training or information is available in textual formats (e.g. PDF/JPG/PPT or the like), please can you attach it to your response.

Training is provided via the quarterly update days from NHSE&I,

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Director of Corporate Governance
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information

(such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust