

Date: 25/04/2012

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/011102

With reference to your FOI request in connection with 'Overseas patients' please see below.

Please find the responses to your request in turn below

Please provide the following information for each of your hospitals for each of the following financial years: 2008/9; 2009/10; 2010/11; 2011/12.

How many patients did you identify as non-exempt overseas visitors?
Please see table below

What was the cash total of all the invoices raised for non-exempt overseas patients?
Please see table below

Of this cash total:-
How much was received as prepayment before treatment?

None – Most of the Trust's Overseas Visitors attend the hospital via Emergency Dept, then possibly referred to a ward for further treatment

How much has been recovered post treatment?
Please see table below

How much is still outstanding? This figure should not include debt written off
Please see table below

How much outstanding debt has been sent to a debt recovery agency?
There has been no outstanding debt sent to a debt recovery agency

How much debt has been written off (i.e. there are no longer any attempts to recover the money)?
Please see table below

Since 2008:

What is the largest outstanding debt run up by a single patient and for what treatment?
The largest outstanding debt run up by a single patient was for £4769 where the patient was admitted to the Acute Stroke Unit.

For each of the same financial years for each hospital, please tell us:

How many patients did you identify as exempt from charges as residents of an EEA country or Switzerland under Regulation 9?
Please see table below

How much did those patients' bills amount to?
Please see table below

How much did you invoice your host Primary Care Trust for patients exempt under Regulation 9?
Please see table below

What sum did you record and report to the Department of Work and Pensions Overseas Healthcare Team?
 The Trust does not hold any information or records of reports to the Department of Work and Pensions Overseas Healthcare Teams.

Further, please tell us the following information for each Hospital in your Trust:

Is there an overseas visitors' manager?

The Trust does not have an Overseas Visitors Manager Role

If not, is there someone who has overseas visitors' manager role as part of their job? What is their job title?

Yes, The Treasury Manager manages the overseas visitors as part of her job role.

How do you identify patients as not ordinarily resident in the UK and therefore eligible for charging? Do you use this approach with all patients that are admitted to your hospital?

The Trust follows the Department of Health Guidance

Do you use a pre-attendance form (PAF)?

This is not applicable as most patients are admitted via Emergency Department

Do you do any checks as a matter of course as to whether someone has been resident in the UK for the last twelve months when they are admitted to the hospital?

If patient has no registered GP or NHS number they are identified as a possible Overseas Visitor and then interviewed as to their status for eligibility for NHS treatment

Charges to individual patients

	No charged	Value of Invoice	Value written off	Value recovered
2008/09	54	31,469.21	28,899.01	7,454.75
2009/10	33	34,952.21	17,320.21	5,317.98
2010/11	17	18,270.36	10,565.72	13,978.02
2011/12	10	25,234.18	13,326.20	5,807.68

debt outstanding at March 2012 amounted to £12091

Report based upon the financial year the invoice was raised, paid or written off.

Charges were also made to Dudley PCT in respect of Overseas visitors (charge exempt) treated by Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust as follows

2008/08	22328.00
2009/10	20619.00
2010/11	38280.00
2011/12	44202.00
EEA patients	No of referrals Value
2008/08	7 3,248.88
2009/10	6 2,561.50
2010/11	1 509.00
2011/12	0 0.00

Debt collection agency	CCI Legal Services Limited	Cost of using the service
2006/06		1,033.97
2006/07		702.14
2007/08		1060.20

The agency was used mainly when the Overseas Visitor had returned to his/her home country, as the agency had the resources to confirm addresses and pursue the debtor in their country.
 Otherwise debt recovery was pursued by Trust Finance staff