

Freedom of Information request 014934

8/8/19

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Whether the Trust has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Home Office regarding the Immigration Enforcement Checking and Advisory Service (IECAS) helpline. If so, please provide a copy of that MoU  
**The Trust has a MOU in place. However, the Home Office is the creator of this document and as it is marked Official Sensitive I would refer you to the Home Office to request a copy of the MOU.**
2. For each financial year since 2017/18 and including 2019/20, the number of patients whose information and/or data was shared with the Home Office without the patient's knowledge or permission, and the basis for this information sharing. Please state the categories of information that were disclosed (e.g. country of origin)  
**The Trust adheres to Chapter 12 of the Overseas charging regulations in regards to sharing patient information with the Home Office. Therefore, I would refer you to the Charging regulations for further information.**  
**([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/767905/guidance-on-implementing-the-overseas-visitor-charging-regulations.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/767905/guidance-on-implementing-the-overseas-visitor-charging-regulations.pdf))**
3. Staff training slides (or Word documents, pdfs) used in any training/guidance sessions, related to patient charging, delivered by Overseas Visitor Managers to Trust staff since July 2017.  
**OVM training is available online (e- learning) through the department of health via Health Education England. This Trust provides training at all induction sessions for newly appointed staff, individual training for specific teams within their departments Trust wide, including Medics and other staff. The training is provided by an Overseas Visitor team as we do not have a OVM in post. The team has various other duties alongside Overseas Visitors charging regulations.**
4. Copies of the training material used to train Overseas Visitor Managers in relation to identifying patients ineligible for free NHS care  
**OVM training is found online (e- learning) through the department of health via Health Education England. OVMs also have access to the DHSC forum that provides support, legislation updates and everyday resources and tools. (Patients letters and leaflets etc.) The guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations is also one of the tools for training and reference, used by the Trust.**
5. Any checklist, guidance, policies or procedures currently used by Overseas Visitor Managers to identify patients who may be ineligible for free NHS care under the overseas patient charging rules  
**We adhere to the guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations to assist us in identifying patients who may be chargeable.**  
**Staff registering patients on the Trust's patient administration system are able to identify potential overseas visitors by status. Reports are produced from the patient administration system so that OVM team can review patient list, to verify status, interview required etc**
6. Does the Trust record the ethnicity or nationality of patients who are asked to provide evidence/proof of their eligibility for free NHS care? If so, please provide this data for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (year to date)  
**The information for a patient's ethnic origin is held on the Trust's centralised Patient Administration System. However, the information relating to the recording of ethnicity or nationality of patients who are asked to provide evidence/proof of their eligibility for free NHS Care is not recorded on the Trust's centralised Patient Administration System**

but held independently. It would not be possible to provide a centralised electronic report linking the two datasets together without accessing patient identifiable information within the two systems. It is not appropriate for the Trust to access person identifiable information to respond to a FOI (exemption section 40 personal information)

7. Please list the circumstances under which, under current Trust/DHSC policy, the Trust shares the home address of past or current patients with the Home Office  
**The Home Office evidence and enquiry checks require the name, date of birth, nationality and address for patients when a status check is required by the Trust. This only applies to current patients attending the Hospital so that their status can be confirmed as accurately and as soon as possible, the patient is updated as to the response once known and the impact upon whether they are chargeable.**

8. Have any Trust staff faced disciplinary procedures for not cooperating with the identification or charging of patients ineligible for free NHS care since October 2017? - **No**