

Date: 26/05/2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 013444 – Overseas visitors

I am writing to request information relating to the Department of Health's policies and guidance on the regulations for charging 'Overseas Visitors' using the NHS in England. I am interested in understanding how the regulations are being implemented locally and the effect they are having.

I would like to request the following information, most of which I understand is collected and submitted to the Department of Health on a monthly basis under the formal reporting systems.

1) In relation to the costs recouped by your Trust as a result of these policies for the financial years 2014/15, 2015/16, and 2016/17, I would like to know:

a) The total number of 'Overseas Visitors' who were invoiced for using services in each of these financial years.

2014/15 60

2015/16 63

2016/17 136

b) The total amount of income 'Overseas Visitors' were invoiced for in each of these financial years.

2014/15 £101,328

2015/16 £102,176

2016/17 £205,020

c) The number of these invoices which were sent to UK addresses and the total amount they represented. - All invoices sent to UK addresses as per the data held on Patient care system

d) The total amount of payments **actually recovered** in each of these financial years.

2014/15 £33,567

2015/16 £33,410

2016/17 £41,690

e) The amount of debts written off in each of these financial years.

2014/15 £16,280

2015/16 £40,939

2016/17 £109,507

2) In relation to the costs incurred by your Trust of implementing these policies, I would like to know:

a. The cost of funding the salaries of Overseas Visitors Manager/s and any staff supporting them. The Overseas visitor manager role is incorporated into the Deputy Treasury Manager & Treasury Officer Role within Finance. Therefore costs are not identified separately for the Overseas Visitor Management roles and not available.

b. Any other costs associated with this work, including those such as facilities and equipment. - See response in 2a

c. The overall cost of implementing these policies. - See 2a. In addition the Trust policy follows the Department of Health Guidelines in respect of charges.

3) I would also like to request:

a. copies of any communications with the Department of Health, including emails, electronic documentation and meeting minutes, regarding this matter which relates specifically to your Trust, for example feedback on your performance following submission of the data.

b. The minutes of any board meetings where this matter was discussed.

The Audit Committee and Private Board Minutes are not available to the public

4) Any other information which you believe is relevant to this request. - NONE

5) I would also like to know whether or not your Trust has been identified as one of those cited by Jeremy Hunt in 'Making a Fair Contribution' as one that "NHS Improvement will work intensively over the coming months with" because it is considered to be one of those "who has the most potential to recover costs" as a result of its "geography and size". - This Trust has not been identified.