

Date: 18/02/2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 014626 - Debt collection firms used to recoup money from overseas patients

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that this request is not restricted to specifically upfront charges.

This request specifically excludes money owed by private patients seeking to use paid-for private services offered by the Trust.

1. Has the Trust used private debt collection firms to recoup money owed by overseas visitors, migrants and former UK residents who were charged for NHS healthcare treatment by the Trust? - NO

2. Has the Trust sold debts owed by overseas visitors, migrants and former UK residents - who were charged for NHS healthcare treatment by the Trust - to private debt collection firms? - NO

If the answer to questions 1 and 2 is 'No', the Trust need not process the remainder of this request.

3. Which private debt collection firms has the Trust used for the purposes referred to in question 1?

4. Which private debt collection firms has the Trust sold debts to as per question 2?

5a. The debts of how many overseas visitors, migrants and former UK residents (excluding private patients) did the Trust pass on or sell to private debt collection firms each calendar year for 2016, 2017 and 2018?

5b. Please state the combined debt owed for each year's referrals/sales as per question 5a

6. What value of the debts referred to each year in response to question 5b has been recouped to date?

7. Please provide any information the Trust holds on the conditions the patients referred to in response to question 5a were treated for (this may be provided as categories of healthcare, such as ENT and nephrology), or alternatively the treatments that were subject to the imposed charges (these may be grouped into over-arching categories for data protection reasons)

8. Please state what policies the Trust operates (or requires debt collection firms to operate) with regard to safeguarding vulnerable individuals when transferring or selling to debt collection firms the debts of overseas visitors, migrants and former UK residents who were charged for NHS healthcare treatment by the Trust