

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-062023-000108

Date: 7/7/23

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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

This request has eight questions. In this request, "NHS healthcare treatment" specifically excludes private patients seeking to use paid-for private services offered by the Trust. It includes non-urgent follow-ups to urgent healthcare treatment.

If information cannot be provided since January 2021 within the section 12 cost limit, please provide information since January 2022.

1. Does the Trust impose upfront charges for non-urgent NHS healthcare treatment to overseas visitors, migrants and former UK residents who are ineligible for free healthcare under government guidelines? - Yes

If not, please explain why, in the context of those guidelines. - N/A

If the answer to question 1 is 'no', the Trust need not provide responses to questions 2-8.

2. The number of overseas visitors, migrants and former UK residents who were charged upfront for NHS healthcare treatment by the Trust since January 2021 - please note this includes patients who did not subsequently proceed with the treatment - 6

If the answer to question 2 is 'zero', the Trust need not provide responses to questions 3-8.

3. The total costs charged for the treatments referred to in question 2 (including where the patient did not proceed with the treatment) = £41,019.00

4. The number of overseas visitors, migrants and former UK residents who did not proceed with NHS healthcare treatment by the Trust after being quoted an upfront charge (timeframe is since January 2021)

= Information is not available as we do not keep details on our records for Overseas Patients on the reasons why an invoice would have been cancelled, it just shows as cancelled so would not be able to provide any further information.

Notes to question 4:

- Sending an invoice to a patient for an upfront charge counts as quoting an upfront charge
- Patients who did not proceed with treatment include those who declined treatment and those who simply did not attend scheduled treatment, as well as any patients who were refused treatment by the Trust

5. Of the number of patients provided in response to question 4, please state how many did not attend scheduled treatment/appointment (rather than cancelling in advance)

= Not known. We do not keep details on our records for Overseas Patients on the reasons why an invoice would have been cancelled, it just shows as cancelled so would not be able to provide any further information.

Note to question 5:

- If the Trust does not record information in a manner that would enable question 5 to be answered within the section 12 cost limit, please state that the information is 'not held' for this question and process the remainder of this request

If the Trust has not provided information for question 5, or has responded with 'zero', please proceed to question 7.

6. What was the financial loss to the Trust caused by the missed scheduled treatment/appointments referred to in response to question 5? =

Note to question 6:

- If the Trust does not record information in a manner that would enable question 6 to be answered within the section 12 cost limit, please state that the information is 'not held' for this question and process the remainder of this request

7. Any data the Trust holds on the reasons for the refusal/inability of the patients referred in response to question 4 to pay the imposed upfront charges (such as preference to return home for treatment, or inability to meet the cost of treatment)

= Information is not available as we do not keep details on our records for Overseas Patients on the reasons why an invoice would have been cancelled, it just shows as cancelled so would not be able to provide any further information.

8. Any data the Trust holds on the conditions the patients referred to in response to question 4 wished to be 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 overarching categories for data protection reasons)

= Information is not available as we do not keep details on our records for Overseas Patients on the reasons why an invoice would have been cancelled, it just shows as cancelled so would not be able to provide any further information.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

FOI/REF FOI-

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust