



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-522

Date: 2nd February 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 18th January 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Charges to Overseas Visitors.

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 I write to request information regarding decisions made under the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, as amended, in your Trust. I seek to ascertain your Trust's application of the UK Government's current guidance which states:

Overseas visitors to England, including anyone living in the UK without permission, will not be charged for:

- **testing for COVID-19 (even if the test shows they do not have COVID-19**
- **treatment for COVID-19, including for a related problem called multisystem inflammatory syndrome that affects some children**



- vaccination against COVID-19

No immigration checks are needed for overseas visitors if they are only tested, treated or vaccinated for COVID-19.

Please can you tell me?

1) Between Feb 2020 and December 2021, did your Trust treat any overseas visitors or migrants (e.g. those usually subject to cost recovery provisions)?

A1 Yes

Q2 If YES:

(a) How many of these were treated for COVID-19?

(b) How many of these patients did your Trust exempted for charges related to their treatment under the "Guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations (amended Feb 2020)"?

(c) If available, please provide nationalities (individual or coded by continent), ages and gender of these patients.

A2 See below:

- a) 6
- b) All 6
- c) see below:

We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information.*

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Q3 If NO:

(d) Prior to Feb 2020, did your Trust treat any overseas visitors or migrants and recover costs? If so, can you provide the cost recovery information for the preceding 5 years.

A3 Not applicable

Q4 If YES or NO:

2) What, if any, training has been given in your trust to those engaged in cost recovery about the application of new provision around COVID-19 and the implementation of the amendments to the guidance on charging? If this training or information is available in textual formats (e.g. PDF/JPG/PPT or the like), please can you attach it to your response.

A4 There is mandatory training when a person starts in post within the Overseas and Private Patient Team. The training was created by Health Education England. It is not available in a text format.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

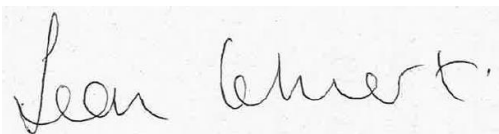
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

