



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-603

Date: 2nd January 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 7th December 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding asylum seekers.

As of 1st November 2014, University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) 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 How many refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt in your Trust?

A1 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in individual invoice records (There are currently 1476 invoices from 2013-14 to 2023-24 outstanding, which we would have to look at individually to see if they are a failed asylum seeker). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual invoice records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual invoice records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*.

Q2 How many female refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt in your Trust?

A2 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual invoice records (There are currently 1476 invoices from 2013-14 to 2023-24 outstanding, which we would have to look at individually to see if they are a failed asylum seeker). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual invoice records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual invoice records and then extracting

relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*.

Q3 How many female refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt due to accessing maternity care on the NHS in your Trust?

A3 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in individual invoice records (There are currently 1476 invoices from 2013-14 to 2023-24 outstanding, which we would have to look at individually to see if they are a failed asylum seeker). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual invoice records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual invoice records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*.

Q4 What is the total amount of NHS debt refused asylum seekers hold in GBP in your Trust?

A4 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in individual invoice records (There are currently 1476 invoices from 2013-14 to 2023-24 outstanding, which we would have to look at individually to see if they are a failed asylum seeker). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual invoice records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual invoice records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*.

Q5 What is the total amount of NHS debt female refused asylum seekers hold in GBP in your Trust?

A5 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in individual invoice records (There are currently 1476 invoices from 2013-14 to 2023-24 outstanding, which we would have to look at individually to see if they are a failed asylum seeker). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual invoice records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual invoice records and then extracting

relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*.

Q6 What is the total amount of NHS debt female refused asylum seekers hold due to accessing maternity care on the NHS in GBP in your Trust?

If possible, can you also provide historic information and break each data set down per year from 2010/11 to present.

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust must hold some of this information and must pass this information onto the Home Office because there was a judicial review this summer about a case in which a women was detained for an NHS debt at the airport on her arrival into the UK

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2023/1272.html>

A6 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in individual invoice records (There are currently 1476 invoices from 2013-14 to 2023-24 outstanding, which we would have to look at individually to see if they are a failed asylum seeker). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual invoice records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual invoice records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*.

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

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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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records