



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-078

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 17th May 2018

Tel: 01782 676474
Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your email dated 5th May 2018 (received into our office 8th May) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding policies & MOUs NHS charging of overseas visitors.

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 I would like to make the following requests in respect of documents/information held by your NHS Trust. If you are managing Freedom of Information Act disclosures on behalf of more than one NHS Trust please treat this request as a request for information from each and every NHS Trust for which you are responsible.

You will be aware of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 as amended by the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. All requests for information below relate to your implementation of these regulations, and particularly, though not exclusively, the requirement to charge up-front for treatment where individuals are not eligible for free treatment, and the concomitant requirements to identify chargeable visitors and to consider whether they are exempt from charging, or whether their care is immediately necessary or urgent.

Please consider the following three requests:

- 1. The disclosure of a Home Office document has revealed that at least 16 NHS Trusts have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Home Office in order to prevent ‘upfront access to healthcare to which illegal migrants are not entitled’.**
 - a. Has your NHS Trust entered into such an MoU?**
 - b. Please provide a copy of the MoU if so.**

A1 Please see below:

a. Has your NHS Trust entered into such a MoU?	No
b. Please provide a copy of the MoU if so.	Not applicable

- Q2 The same document reveals that at least 20 NHS Trusts have been visited by Home Office Local Partnership managers to establish ‘robust immigration status checking systems’.**
- a. Has your NHS Trust had such a visit?**
 - b. Please provide details of any such visit or visits including, but not limited to:**
 - i. Agendas of any meetings with Home Office Local Partnership managers;**
 - ii. Minutes of any such meetings, if available;**
 - iii. Documents/information packs/brochures/training materials/guidance relating to the visit or visits or created as a result of engagement with Home Office Local Partnership managers.**
 - c. Please provide documents/guidance/procedures as to the immigration status checking system that you have in place.**

A2 Please see below:

a. Has your NHS Trust had such a visit?	No
b. Please provide details of any such visit or visits including, but not limited	Not applicable
c. Please provide documents/guidance/procedures as to the immigration status checking system that you have in place.	Information not held

- Q3 Please also provide documents or information as to efforts that have been made to discharge the Trust’s public sector equality duty in implementing the regulations. These would usually include, but are not limited to:**
- a. Equality impact assessments;**
 - b. Delivery of training to staff on implementation and avoiding discrimination;**
 - c. Written policies and guidance on implementation of the charging regime;**
 - d. Systems to monitor the impact of the charging regime on your service users, particularly those belonging to BME groups, foreign nationals, or those with other protected characteristics and any findings from such monitoring.**

A3 Please see below:

a. Equality impact assessments;	An EIA is being done in line with the new policy. Due to be ratified August 2018
b. Delivery of training to staff on implementation and avoiding discrimination;	A roll out of the new policy will be done once policy is ratified. Due to be ratified August 2018
c. Written policies and guidance on implementation of the charging regime;	The Trusts Overseas Visitor policy has been updated in line with the implementation of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, which has been

	amended most recently by the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 and is currently in process of the Trust ratification process
d. Systems to monitor the impact of the charging regime on your service users, particularly those belonging to BME groups, foreign nationals, or those with other protected characteristics and any findings from such monitoring.	The responsibility for the administration of the policy and the subsequent monitoring of its application through necessary audit falls under the Private Patients Department, Finance Directorate

*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.

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 676474.

Yours,



Mojgan Casillas
Interim Information Governance Manager