

Ref. No: 1783
Date: 27th May 2025
Subject: NHS Surcharge

REQUEST

1a. A copy of any policies, standard operating procedure or guidance that sets out how the Trust identifies who qualifies as a foreign national or overseas visitor required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS).

1b. Please provide the results of the last audit of this policy and compliance levels with it. If such an audit has not been conducted within the last five years, please say so.

2. A copy of any policies that set out what steps are taken if a patient, eligible to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), seeks to access (or in fact has already accessed) services provided by the Trust for which payment would be owed.

3a. A copy of any policies, standard operating procedure or guidance which set out the steps taken to invoice a foreign national for any episode of care delivered by the Trust which was not billed/ invoiced for prior to the episode of care being delivered.

3b. A copy of any policies, standard operating procedure or guidance that set out the steps the Trust takes to collect unpaid debts where an episode / episodes of care have been provided to a foreign national.

3c. Data which sets out the total amount (in GBP) for each of the last 3 calendar years that has been collected for the provision of any episode of care for a foreign national (i.e. any individual who is not entitled to that care free at the point of use).

- i. Collected by the Trust**
- ii. Collected by a third party**
- iii. That the Trust has written off**

3d. The total amount (in GBP) which remains uncollected by the Trust for the provision of any episode of care for a foreign national.

RESPONSE

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act Mersey and West Lancashire Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 associated with the Act. The £450 cost limit represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours answering the questions asked.