

Ref. No: 1526
Date: 02/05/25
Subject: Elective surgery costs 4/5

REQUEST

- 1. Please could you state how many patients were treated by your Trust in the last financial year (23/24) who were patients that should have paid for their treatment because they were not entitled to free NHS hospital care?**
- 2. How many of these patients who should have paid for their treatment had (i) elective treatment and (ii) non-elective treatment?**
- 3. Of those patients who were billed for treatment how many were (i) for elective treatment and the bill is still wholly or partly outstanding and what is their cumulative value (the unpaid balance) in total and (ii) how many were for non-elective treatment and the bill is still wholly or partly outstanding what is their cumulative value (the unpaid balance) in total?**
- 4. Please provide a nationality breakdown of the patients who have unpaid bills against them for treatment in 23/24 showing the number of patients from each country.**
- 5. Please state the amount of the largest unpaid bill for a chargeable patient for (i) elective and (ii) non-elective treatment in the last financial year (2023/24), giving the amount that is due, the speciality or specialities involved in treating those patients, and the patients' country of residence.**

RESPONSE

- 1. Please could you state how many patients were treated by your Trust in the last financial year (23/24) who were patients that should have paid for their treatment because they were not entitled to free NHS hospital care?**

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act Mersey and West Lancashire NHS 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.

- 2. How many of these patients who should have paid for their treatment had (i) elective treatment and (ii) non-elective treatment?**

We don't store that level of information within our systems

As a result, the answer to Qu1 would apply

- 3. Of those patients who were billed for treatment how many were (i) for elective treatment and the bill is still wholly or partly outstanding and what is their cumulative value (the unpaid balance) in total and (ii) how many were for non-elective treatment and the bill is still wholly or partly outstanding what is their cumulative value (the unpaid balance) in total?**

Section 12 would apply as detailed in Qu 1.

- 4. Please provide a nationality breakdown of the patients who have unpaid bills against them for treatment in 23/24 showing the number of patients from each country.**

We don't store that level of information within our systems

As a result, the answer to Qu1 would apply

- 5. Please state the amount of the largest unpaid bill for a chargeable patient for (i) elective and (ii) non-elective treatment in the last financial year (2023/24), giving the amount that is due, the speciality or specialities involved in treating those patients, and the patients' country of residence.**

We don't store that level of information within our systems

As a result, the answer to Qu1 would apply