

Ref. No: 1912
Date: 14th July
Subject: Charging Status F

REQUEST

1. The number of patients processed by your Trust between the years 2018 and 2025 who were classified as having a chargeable status.
2. The number of individuals in receipt of secondary care who, under the 'NHS Charges to Overseas Visitors Regulation, 2015' were classified as "Charging Category F".
3. The total value of the treatment provided to those individuals who were classified as falling under "Charging Category F".
4. Please also confirm whether your Trust has an Overseas Visitor Manager position(s), the total number, and whether all roles are presently filled.

RESPONSE

- 1) The number of patients processed by your Trust between the years 2018 and 2025 who were classified as having a chargeable status.
- 2) The number of individuals in receipt of secondary care who, under the 'NHS Charges to Overseas Visitors Regulation, 2015' were classified as "Charging Category F".
- 3) The total value of the treatment provided to those individuals who were classified as falling under "Charging Category F".

Response (Including refusal of request under section 12):

Section 12 of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the request. The relevant section states:

12. (1) - Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

where the appropriate limit is equal to 18 hours of staff time as set by the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004*

In determining the time limit, the Trust can only take into account

- determining whether the information is held;
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

In order to determine whether the information is held in respect of your request, the Trust would need to review both the medical records and accounts of patients who may be chargeable for the financial years. A simple report cannot be produced as there is not a specific code relating to this.

Calculation – The trust has estimated it will take more than 201 hours to provide this information

Advice and Assistance

Under section 16 of the FOIA, advice and assistance should be provided to allow the request to come under the appropriate limit by scaling or modifying the request.

Unable to narrow

However, as the information is not readily available and the time to locate the information is so large it would not be easy to scale down the request in this instance, for example, to one year as this would still exceed the time limit.

Unfortunately, the Trust is unable to provide further assistance in this instance.

Q4 The Trust does not have an Overseas Visitor Manager position. We have 2 Private Patient Co-Ordinator's that assist in the identification of possible overseas visitors at Whiston & St Helens Hospitals