

Information Governance

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Ref: FOI2018/4654

Date Received: 8th May 2018
Response Due: 6th June 2018

31st May 2018

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

We are now pleased to respond to your request for information under the FOI Act.

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? No*
 - b. *Please provide a copy of the MoU if so. N/A*

2. *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? No*
 - b. *Please provide details of any such visit or visits including, but not limited to: N/A*
 - 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. N/A*

3. *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: [policy/patient leaflets/awareness presentations/patients systems records overseas visitors and addresses.](#)*

[Please see the attached information.](#)

- 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.*

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you Within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Foster
Chief Executive

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF