

Reference Number: FOIAH2425/353
From: Other
Date: 03 October 2024
Subject: NHS charges to overseas visitors

Q1 I am writing to you to make a FOI request for anonymised data concerning charges made to overseas visitors for non-urgent care in the period from 1 January 2019 - 1 January 2024.

Please could you provide the data from your trust on the following:

- a) Nationality of patients charged during the stated time period
- b) Ethnicity of patients charged during the stated time period
- c) Invoice amount for all patients subject to charges
- d) Urgency of treatment for the patients subjected to charges
- e) Sex of patients charged during the stated time period

A1 1st January 2019- 1st January 2024:

a) Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data.

b) The Trust is unable to respond to this question as the response would indicate five or less individuals. The Trust is withholding this information under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 to reduce the risk of any individuals being identified. The Trust is of the view that disclosure of such information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and as such would constitute a breach of their personal data.

c) 2019/20 - £11,160
2020/21 - £0
2021/22 - £21,509
2022/23 - £2,724
2023/24 - £61,257

d) Day case / elective - Six
Emergency - Eight

e) Male - Seven
Female – Seven

Please note, for d) and e) these figures have been aggregated for all the years requested. We are unable to provide a breakdown for each year as the Trust is unable to respond to all or specific elements of your request where the response would indicate five or less individuals. The Trust is withholding this information under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 to reduce the risk of any individuals being identified. The Trust is of the view that disclosure of such information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and as

such would constitute a breach of their personal data.

The Trust has applied exemption Section 40(2) of the FOIA and is therefore withholding the information as disclosure which may identify an individual would breach their rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. The grounds for application of this exemption include:

- Any data relating to patients or staff is third party data, furthermore health data is classified as sensitive personal data within the Data Protection Act 2018. As such, Section 40 (2) of the FOIA applies along with the Trusts duty of confidentiality. Therefore under s.2 (3) (f) (ii) of the FOIA, there is an absolute exemption from disclosure on the grounds that it would contravene the First Data Protection Principle.
- The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and specifically the First Data Protection Principle to ensure personal data regarding staff and patients is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of such data which may identify an individual, either through the data alone or other data in conjunction with that data which may identify an individual would therefore breach this principle.
- The Data Protection Act 2018 defines sensitive personal data to include data relating to the “physical or mental health or condition” of a person. Any such information about specific individuals falls within this category and disclosure of such data including statistical data, with any potential likelihood of identification would breach the Data Protection Act 2018.

Please note, information relating to overseas visitors charged and debts written off are also reported in our Annual Reports and Accounts, which can be found on our website: <https://www.alderhey.nhs.uk/about/publications/>