

Date: Friday, 30th October 2020  
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4482

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**Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4482**

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 06th October 2020.

Your request was as follows:

The following requests relate to NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 as amended by the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

Please consider the following three requests:

1. This question relates to the Trust's implementation of the charging policies detailed above. Please provide:

a. copies of any Equality Impact Assessments.

[The equality impact assessment is appendix 4 of the overseas patient policy](#)

1.b. copies of any local policies and guidance on implementation of the charging regime.

• If the Trust does not have any local policy or guidance, please list the guidance used to implement the regulations.

[The trust use the "Guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations" attached](#)

1.c. copies of documents/guidance/forms explaining how charging exemption requests are assessed.

• In particular this should include the process by which individuals are identified as exempt from charging as they are in receipt of treatment required for a physical or mental condition caused by torture, domestic violence or sexual violence.

[please see attached.](#)

1.d. copies of any guidance/documents explaining the criteria by which an individual is categorised as destitute and therefore exempt from charging.

[please see attached.](#)

2. Please provide details on the training staff receive with regards to overseas visitor charging regulations. Specifically:



- a. Are staff joining this Trust required to complete training relating to the overseas visitor charging policy?
- i) If so is this training face-to-face or an online e-learning module?
  - ii) Please provide details of what specific training is provided to avoid discrimination when implementing the policy?
  - iii) Please provide copies of any training materials provided prior to or during these sessions.

There is no mandatory training given to staff. Training is done on an adhoc basis by the overseas officer when required and tailored to the individual

- 2.b. Are clinicians employed by this Trust required to complete any specific training to enable them in their role of assessing whether patient care is urgent/immediately necessary?

- i) If so is this training face-to-face or an online e-learning module?
- ii) Please provide copies of any training materials provided prior to or during these sessions.

No this will be covered as part of their medical training when becoming a clinician

- c. Are overseas managers (OVMs) required to complete any specific training to enable them in their role implementing these regulations when joining the Trust?

- i) If so is this training face-to-face or an online e-learning module?
- ii) Please provide copies of any assessments made with regards to whether OVMs employed by the Trust should be required to hold an Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) registration?
- iii) Please confirm whether OVMs employed by the Trust have received any immigration advisory training enabling registration with the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) commissioner. This could be OISC qualification levels 1-3, or the law society Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme (IAAS) levels 1-2.

There is no specific training however overseas manager are expected to keep up to date with any national guidance and attend any training course whether face to face or online as well as join the any national forums. a workshop was held in Cheshire and Merseyside recently that the team attended

- ii) OISC is not a requirement of the role
- iii) OISC is not a requirement of the role

3. This question relates to how the Trust is monitoring the impact of the charging policies:

a) Please provide copies of any audit reports monitoring the impact of the charging policy on service users following implementation.

This was not part of the trusts audit plan

3.b) In particular please provide any documents detailing how the Trust is monitoring for evidence of systematic discrimination as a result of these policies.

This was part of the audit plan.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

### Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk) where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at [www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm)

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

**Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4482 in any future communications.**

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

*Mike Burns*

**Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information**