

Date: Friday, 09th December 2022
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 5456

Sid Watkins Building
Lower Lane
Fazakerley
Liverpool L9 7BB
Tel: 01515253611
Fax: 01515295500
Direct Line: 01515563038

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5456

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 23rd November 2022.

Your request was as follows:

1. The total outstanding medical bills currently owed to the Trust by overseas visitors. Please provide subtotals for each hospital within the Trust.

[Please see attached.](#)

2. The top three highest outstanding medical bills owed to the Trust by individual overseas visitors and the nationality of those visitors. (i.e. £495,000 owed by an individual from France)

[Please see attached.](#)

3. Of the total amount owed to the Trust, please provide a breakdown of the nationalities of overseas visitors who currently have outstanding medical bills (i.e. visitors from USA: £200,000 / visitors from Japan: £130,000)

[Please see attached.](#)

4. Please provide a breakdown of medical procedures that the outstanding medical bills relate to, for example £300,000 owed for Kidney disease treatments, for the Trust as a whole.

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

[Section 12 - Requests where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit](#)

In response to your request, whilst we hold the information requested we believe an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies to it. Section 12 of the Act allows public authorities to refuse to answer requests for information if the cost of complying would exceed the 18 hour appropriate limit prescribed in the Fees Regulations.

In order to respond to your request this would require an audit person reviewing every outstanding invoice and doing analysis on it to factor whether it is patient related debt or not, and then looking into the data behind each invoice to determine what procedures it relates to. The time it would take to compile and collate the activity data required by means of a manual trawl of records would be in excess of this appropriate limit.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

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 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

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 5456 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