

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 20-162

24 March 2020

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

Please note: Provision of information for the years 2018-19 (full year) and for 2019-20 (part year to 12 March 2020).

To provide information for 2017-18 would require manual search of records which would take the Trust more than 18 hours to complete and it is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the FOI Act 2000.

1. In each of the last three years, broken down by year, how many women classed as "overseas visitors" have been invoiced for maternity care at the Trust?
18-19: 15.
19-20: 20.
2. In each of the last three years, broken down by year, how many women have been invoiced for maternity care at the Trust?
Please see response of question 1.
3. In each of the last three years, broken down by year, how many women classed as "overseas visitors" have been notified to the Home Office during or after receiving maternity care at the Trust?
18-19: 6.
19-20: 2.
4. In each of the last three years, broken down by year, how many women classed as "overseas visitors" have been referred to debt collection agencies in connection with maternity care at the Trust?
19-19: 2.
19-20: 1.
5. In each of the last three years, broken down by year, how many women classed as "overseas visitors" have been checked by Experian or other credit-rating agencies in

connection with maternity care at the Trust?

The trust does not use a credit reference agency, Experian or other.

6. In each of the last three years, broken down by year, how many women classed as "overseas visitors" have failed to attend antenatal appointments to which they were invited?

18-19: 2.

19-20: 5.

Please note that the patient administration system only shows that a patient has cancelled or DNA (did not attend), it does not record a reason.

7. In each of the last three years, broken down by year, how many women classed as "overseas visitors" attending antenatal appointments have been sent letters warning they may become non-eligible for free NHS care? (As reported here for your reference). All patients attending antenatal appointments who the Trust may believe could be overseas visitors are written to with a standard letter outlining that they are required to prove their exemption from charge.

8. How has the Trust considered the following statement of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges: "As the coordinating body for the UK and Ireland's 24 medical Royal Colleges and Faculties, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges supports the suspension of the NHS charging regulations pending a full and independent review of the impact on both individual and public health."

This has not been discussed in the Private Patient and Overseas Visitors Steering Group.

9. How much does the Trust ordinarily charge each migrant woman ineligible for free NHS care who has received maternity care, which may include antenatal, delivery and postnatal care? For your reference, the British Medical Journal has reported that migrants pay 150% of the costs of their care.

All patients deemed as being chargeable are charged at 150% of tariff, unless they have proved that they are resident in an EEA EFTA country where they are charged at 100% of tariff.

10. In each of the last three years, broken down by year, how many women classed as "overseas visitors" have been charged in excess of the ordinary fees after experiencing complicated deliveries including stillbirth.

3 women. Due to the low number of women the Trust will not break down by year to avoid potential identification.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, 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:

Director of Corporate Governance
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above 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 Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

FOI Team
UH Bristol NHS Foundation Trust