



Freedom of Information Team
Room 1.16
De La Court House
Queen Alexandra Hospital
Southwick Hill Road
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO6 3LY

Tel: 023 9228 6000 Ext 3708

Name:

Date: 07/04/2020

Ref: 20-21 004

Dear

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by our Freedom of Information team on 02/04/2020.

I was wondering if you could please tell me how your Trust plans to enforce the new smoking ban on hospital grounds once it takes effect in April?

Our smoke free site has been in operation since 14th January 2018. When we launched our smoke free policy we acknowledged that it would take time to fully implement and we have made good progress in reducing the numbers of those who smoke on the hospital grounds.

We have re-purposed our smoking shelters to become bicycle storage, replaced our signage to become more impactful, advertised our new smoke free policy widely within the community and included messaging on all our inpatient letters.

We also have around 40 smoke free ambassadors within the Trust who have been trained to approach people smoking on site, inform them of our new smoke free policy and sign post them to the available support to quit smoking. Year on year our referrals to smoking cessation programme have increased by over 1000 patients (Q1&2 2018 compared with Q1&2 2019)

Secondly for those caught disobeying the ban, if they are to be fined as a result, how much exactly would they have to pay out?

While we are asking visitors to be respectful of other patients and not smoke on our site, this is not a legally enforceable policy. We are also not seeking to enforce this policy through our security team as our priority is providing the support and encouragement that smokers need to help them quit for good. We are at the very start of a significant cultural change.

We must also be sensitive that people may be in a highly emotional state here at the hospital and therefore a fine for smoking may not be the most appropriate course of action. We prefer that people

are approached and informed about the new smoke free policy by a member of staff or a smoke free ambassador and given information about smoking cessation services.

Thirdly, does your trust currently offer any on-site smoking cessation methods to encourage people to quit or seek an alternative to traditional cigarettes (such as e-cigarettes)? Would these also have to be purchased or would they be distributed free of charge?

Nicotine replacement therapy is available for any patient who has to spend time at the hospital and patients are asked on admittance whether they require this.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team