

Freedom of Information Team  
Post Room  
Queen Alexandra Hospital  
Southwick Hill Road  
Portsmouth  
Hampshire  
PO6 3LY

Name:  
Email:  
Date: 06/10/2021  
Ref: 21-22 208

Dear Mr Matthews,

### **Freedom of Information request**

Firstly, please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 13/07/2021. Please see responses to your requests below.

I would be grateful if you would provide me with answers to the following questions regarding policies and facilities for vulnerable adults being seen in the Emergency Department (ED):

**1. Is there a separate waiting area for vulnerable adults with learning difficulties?**

There is not a separate waiting area within the Trust's Emergency Department for vulnerable adults with learning difficulties as the reception/waiting area is one single space. However, the team within the Emergency Department would prioritise a patient with learning disabilities into a more suitable environment within the clinical area as soon as possible such as a bedspace in the emergency department.

**2. Are responsible adults allowed to accompany vulnerable adults with learning difficulties when they are seen by clinical staff in ED?**

Yes. The Emergency Department team fully support vulnerable patients to have their accompanying adult present during their stay in the Emergency Department.

**3. Are carers welcome to provide care if needed?**

Carers are welcome and able to provide care to the patient. There is a funding agreement that has been put in place that needs to be signed to enable carers to stay at the Trust and provide care to the patient.



funding  
agreement.docx

**4. Does your Trust have policies in place to assess capacity to consent to investigations and treatment for adults with learning disabilities? If so, could you supply me with a copy of these policies?**

The Trust has the Mental Capacity Act 2005 Policy and the consent to Examination or Treatment policy. Please see attached below:



Mental Capacity Act  
2005 Policy.pdf



Consent to  
Examination or Trea

When a patient is admitted as an emergency the Trust will always check whether a patient is under a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS) in the community. Patients are treated in their best interests, if investigations are required then we use the consent form 4, if a relative has lasting power of attorney for health and welfare then they may sign the Trust's usual consent form. The Trust Consultant would always assess whether the patient has capacity, if not then we recommend that a best interest meeting is held to complete consent form 4 and ensure that the procedure is undertaken with the appropriate consent forms in place.

Please see attached below the Trust's capacity assessment tool and consent form 4:



Capacity  
Assessment Tool - Fc



Consent form 4.pdf

**5. Do you have policies relating to the administration of treatment/pain relief when an adult with learning disability is unable to consent? If so, please could I request a copy of these policies?**

The Emergency Department team use the Abbey Pain Scale is a tool designed to assist in the assessment of pain in patients who are unable to clearly articulate their needs, for example, patients with dementia, cognition or communication issues. In terms of administering medication to patients who cannot consent, the consent policy and the administration of covert medication policy is followed.

Please see both policies attached below:



Consent to  
Examination or Trea



Covert  
Administration Chec

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](mailto: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