



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

Date: 05/04/2022

Ref: 21-22 521

Freedom of Information request

Firstly please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in providing you with a response.

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 18/01/2022. Please see responses to your requests below.

1. Between Feb 2020 and December 2021, did your Trust treat any overseas visitors or migrants (e.g. those usually subject to cost recovery provisions)?

Yes, the Trust did treat overseas visitors and migrants within the timeframe specified.

If YES:

a) How many of these were treated for COVID-19?

Eleven of these patients who attended the Trust were treated for Covid-19.

b) How many of these patients did your Trust exempt for charges related to their treatment under the "Guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations (amended Feb 2020)"?

Eleven patients were exempt for charges due to covid treatment. Three of which were charged for other treatments they received on top of their free covid treatment.

c) If available, please provide nationalities (individual or coded by continent), ages and gender of these patients.

| Nationality | Gender |
|-------------|--------|
| Chinese | Female |
| Turkish | Male |
| Chinese | Male |
| Filipino | Male |
| Sudanese | Female |
| Serbian | Female |
| Chinese | Male |
| Romanian | Female |
| Mexican | Female |
| Maltese | Female |
| Italian | Male |

We are unable to provide all the information due to the risk that individuals will be identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the Data Protection Act.

In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure.

If NO:

- d) Prior to Feb 2020, did your Trust treat any overseas visitors or migrants and recover costs? If so, can you provide the cost recovery information for the preceding 5 years.**

Not applicable.

If YES or NO:

- 2. What, if any, training has been given in your trust to those engaged in cost recovery about the application of new provision around COVID-19 and the implementation of the amendments to the guidance on charging? If this training or information is available in textual formats (e.g. PDF/JPG/PPT or the like), please can you attach it to your response.**

There is no training manual. The staff members who are involved in raising invoices for overseas visitor patients are kept up to date on changes to the charging regulations by way of updates from the team manager. This could come from sources including; the Department of Health and Social Care, Overseas Patients Managers Network and NHS England and Improvement.

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