

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3246

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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Ophthalmology overseas resident patients 2014-2016.

- 1. How many ophthalmology procedures were carried out on overseas residents in a) 2014-15 and b) 2015-16?*
- 2. Of these how many were emergency and therefore given priority for treatment in a) 2014-15 and b) 2015-16?*
- 3. What was a) the total cost of these procedures b) the highest individual cost of such a procedure in a) 2014-15 and b) 2015-16?*
- 4. What were the associated translation costs in a) 2014-15 and b) 2015-16?*
- 5. a) How many of these patients were identified as having been chargeable patients, i.e. not entitled to receive free NHS care in a) 2014-15 and b) 2015-16?*
b) What was the total cost of treating those chargeable patients in a) 2014-15 and b) 2015-16?
- 6. Of that cost, how much was actually paid by the chargeable patients in a) 2014-15 and b) 2015-16?*

In order to attend an Ophthalmology outpatient appointment the patient would need an NHS number and therefore any that are overseas residents are not easily captured, even if they are not entitled. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has one overseas visitor manager (OVM) who concentrates on emergency care patients that are admitted as these can be identified. In order to gather the information requested all patient records for both A&E and Ophthalmology would need to be manually checked and the Trust has

estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

The translation services for the Trust are supplied by Medway Borough Council and they will be unable to separate the cost for a specific procedure.