

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4342

Please reply to:
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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 Overseas patients unpaid medical bills.

1. For each of the following financial years - how many medical bills were unpaid by overseas patients who had treatment in your hospital trust, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 to date?

2. For the financial years above, how much was left outstanding in unpaid medical bills by overseas patients who had been treated by your trust?

3. What was the most expensive medical bill that was still outstanding and what treatment did the patient undergo? Where possible can you name the country of origin of the patient?

4. For the financial years stated above, how much money was written off by your trust in unpaid medical bills by overseas patients who were treated by your trust?

1.

a)

- 14/15 = nil
- 15/16 = 18
- 16/17 = 34
- 17/18 to date = 36

b)

- 14/15 = nil
- 15/16 = £47755.58
- 16/17 = £129141.75
- 17/18 to date = £108238.20

2.

- As above

3.

- The most outstanding bill to date is £35592.17- Due to the very small number of cases and in order to protect patient confidentiality the Trust has therefore decided that no further information will be given in response to this question.

4.

- In line with recent guidance from the Government Home Office, the Trust does not currently write off overseas visitor's debt, however for accounts purposes a full provision to cover the debts is included. This information is used to support future immigration applications by the Home Office whereby any patients with outstanding debts may not be able to enter or remain in the UK. In 2014/15 the Trust wrote off debts to the value of £14,250, in 2015/16 the Trust wrote off debts to the value of £29,720.