

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3973

Please reply to:
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25 April 2017

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 A&E beds and upfront charging.

Accident and Emergency

- 1. As of April 2010, the total number of Accident and Emergency beds within the Trust (including predecessor Trusts)*
- 2. As of March 2011, the total number of Accident and Emergency beds within the Trust (including predecessor Trusts)*
- 3. As of April 2017, the total number of Accident and Emergency beds within the Trust*

Please split the figures for questions 1-3 into overnight beds and day-only beds. This request includes beds that were temporarily unavailable.

- 4. Please list any Accident and Emergency wards or units that have been permanently closed since April 2010. Please state how many A&E beds they included at point of closure.*
- 5. Please provide the business case or management report/review underpinning each closure listed in response to question 4*
- 6. Please list any Accident and Emergency wards or units that have been permanently opened since April 2010. Please state how many A&E beds they include.*

In this request, Accident and Emergency beds, wards and units are those whose primary usage is for Accident and Emergency cases.

Upfront charging of non-residents

- 7. What is the Trust's policy on treating overseas patients who are eligible to be charged upfront for care but are not able or willing to pay upfront?*
- 8. What is the Trust's policy on upfront charging for overseas patients where it is not possible to establish the cost of care upfront?*

9. What is the Trust's policy towards clinical staff who refuse to enforce upfront payment?

10. What is the Trust's policy on identifying which patients need to be asked for proof of residency in relation to upfront charging, and what form does that proof take?

Accident and Emergency

The Accident and Emergency departments do not have A&E beds as such, patients are assessed and either treated and discharged or admitted onto a ward. The only Accident and Emergency closure which has taken place was when the Kent & Sussex hospital closed with services transferred to the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury.

Upfront charging of non-residents

The Trust has not received guidance from the Department of Health regarding the Overseas Visitor and Migrant NHS Cost Recovery Programme 2017 given that the changes have been neither introduced nor have come into force and is therefore unable to respond.