

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5092

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 Allocation of transgender patients.

You asked:

- 1. When accommodating patients who identify as transgender on wards that are segregated according to sex do you allocate them by their biological birth/sex or their preferred/expressed gender? To be clear, if a patient/service user who identifies as a transgender woman asks to be placed on a women's ward would you comply even if they had not taken any medical steps towards gender reassignment and retained their male genitalia or would you house them on a men's ward ?*
- 2. Do you have an official policy with regard to where transgender patients are accommodated where sex/segregation is a factor?*
- 3. How many transgender patients have you accommodated on wards according to their preferred/expressed gender rather than their biological sex for the 12 months up to the last month for which records are available?*
- 4. Have there been any complaints from other patients/service users where that has occurred about that policy/decision?*
- 5. Have there been any complaints about the behaviour of patients who identify as transgender where they have been accommodated on wards in alignment with their transgender identity rather than their biological/birth sex?*
- 6. Have there been any negative/adverse incidents involving patients who identify as transgender that have affected other patients/service users, been reported/recorded in any official/formal capacity or required action/intervention outside of normal care?*

Trust response:

1. The Trust would discuss and accommodate the wishes of the patient with them directly, taking into consideration the nature of the admission and NHS Governance around single sex bays. For example a transgender women (whether they have gone through surgery or not) would be

admitted to a female bay. However, if the cause of their admission was for example something related to male genitalia that they have retained, the patient would be asked what would be most appropriate for them – for example a side room may be more discrete for discussions with hospital staff. At Tunbridge Wells Hospital all rooms are single occupancy.

2. NHS England issue single-sex accommodation guidance.
3. The Trust is unable to answer this question. We can split our admissions data by male or female as gender is included. However, whether this gender is the patient's biological gender or their expressed gender as specified by the patient we have no way of knowing, neither can we say if they are transgender in terms of admitted patients on wards.
4. The Trust does not have a specific subject code to capture the placement of transgender patients within the acute hospital setting. Looking at formal complaints received since 01.04.2016 to date, we have no complaints recorded under the subject "mixed sex wards".
5. None that the PALS or Safeguarding Teams are aware of.
6. None that the PALS or Safeguarding Teams are aware of.