



**Maidstone and
Tunbridge Wells**
NHS Trust

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5603

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

24 July 2019

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 patient policy.

You asked:

- 1. Whether the Trust has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Home Office regarding the Immigration Enforcement Checking and Advisory Service (IECAS) helpline. If so, please provide a copy of that MoU*
- 2. For each financial year since 2017/18 and including 2019/20, the number of patients whose information and/or data was shared with the Home Office without the patient's knowledge or permission, and the basis for this information sharing. Please state the categories of information that were disclosed (e.g. country of origin)*
- 3. Staff training slides (or Word documents, pdfs) used in any training/guidance sessions, related to patient charging, delivered by Overseas Visitor Managers to Trust staff since July 2017.*
- 4. Copies of the training material used to train Overseas Visitor Managers in relation to identifying patients ineligible for free NHS care*
- 5. Any checklist, guidance, policies or procedures currently used by Overseas Visitor Managers to identify patients who may be ineligible for free NHS care under the overseas patient charging rules*
- 6. Does the Trust record the ethnicity or nationality of patients who are asked to provide evidence/proof of their eligibility for free NHS care? If so, please provide this data for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (year to date)*
- 7. Please list the circumstances under which, under current Trust/DHSC policy, the Trust shares the home address of past or current patients with the Home Office*
- 8. Have any Trust staff faced disciplinary procedures for not cooperating with the identification or charging of patients ineligible for free NHS care since October 2017?*

Trust response:

1. No we do not have an MOU
2. No data available on this is not recorded – we would need to look at every overseas patients records to see if a home office was required at the time. This is done on an adhoc basis and would be a long process to gather this information without breaching confidentiality.
3. Please see the attached training slides.



Microsoft PowerPoint
97-2003 Presentation



Microsoft PowerPoint
97-2003 Presentati

4. <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/> - All Overseas visitor staff at this Trust have to complete all sections on the 'Overseas visitor section'
5. Adhere to 'Overseas Visitor DOH guidelines'
6. This information is not regularly collected and would need the Trust to manually look at each patient record in order to obtain any figures. 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.
7. To check eligibility of patient under immigration control only.
8. No