

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7208

Please reply to:
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Trust Management
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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 losses and special payments.

You asked:

In your financial accounts for the financial year 2020/21 did you have a section for "losses and special payments"?

- 1. If so how much money was accounted for it the 2020/2021 financial year as being "losses and special payments"? (Please note I am aware that the loss may have occurred many years earlier but I am interested in items which were accounted for in the 20/21 financial year, irrespective of when the loss took place.)*
- 2. Please detail the three largest single amounts within this total, giving a cost for each loss and a detailed description of the claim and the reason for the loss.*
- 3. What was the biggest loss written off in 2020/21 (regardless of when the debt was accumulated) that related to an unpaid patient bill? Please state the total amount of this written off debt, the nationality of the patient and the department of the hospital where the majority of the bill was incurred.*

Trust response:

1. £52,000

2.

£7k - overseas patient - now deceased, debt written off

£6.3k - overpayment of salaries, cannot trace person

£6.2k - overpayment of salaries, cannot trace person

3. £7k - overseas patient – now deceased. The Trust will not provide further information as requested as this may provide sufficient information to allow for the patient to be identified.

Patient identifiable information is, by its very nature, owed a duty of confidence, the disclosure of which would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person. Section 41 (FOI) provides an absolute exemption for information meeting this definition. Whilst health records relating to deceased people do not carry a common law duty of confidentiality, it is Department of Health and General Medical Council policy that records relating to deceased people should be treated with the same level of confidentiality as those relating to living people. Access to the health records of a deceased person is governed by the Access to Health Records Act 1990.