

Information Governance Department

Wrightington Hospital

Hall Lane

Appley Bridge

Wigan

WN6 9EP

Tel: 01257 256284
Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI2020/7105

Date Received: 6th October 2020

Response Due: 3rd November 2020

Date: 23rd October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

You asked:

The following requests relate to NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 as amended by the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

Please consider the following three requests:

1. This question relates to the Trust's implementation of the charging policies detailed above.

Please provide:

- a) **Copies of any Equality Impact Assessments.** – as per the attached policy
- b) **Copies of any local policies and guidance on implementation of the charging regime.** – as per the attached policy
- **If the Trust does not have any local policy or guidance, please list the guidance used to implement the regulations.** - DHSC Guidance on Implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations
- c) **Copies of documents/guidance/forms explaining how charging exemption requests are assessed.** – Using the above DHSC guidance
- **In particular this should include the process by which individuals are identified as exempt from charging as they are in receipt of treatment required for a physical or mental condition caused by torture, domestic violence or sexual violence.** – Using the DHSC guidance

- d) **Copies of any guidance/documents explaining the criteria by which an individual is categorised as destitute and therefore exempt from charging.** – Using DHSC guidance
2. **Please provide details on the training staff receive with regards to overseas visitor charging regulations. Specifically:**
- a) **Are staff joining this Trust required to complete training relating to the overseas visitor charging policy?** No
- i) **If so is this training face-to-face or an online e-learning module?**
ii) **Please provide details of what specific training is provided to avoid discrimination when implementing the policy?**
iii) **Please provide copies of any training materials provided prior to or during these sessions.**
- b) **Are clinicians employed by this Trust required to complete any specific training to enable them in their role of assessing whether patient care is urgent/immediately necessary?** No
- i) **If so is this training face-to-face or an online e-learning module?**
ii) **Please provide copies of any training materials provided prior to or during these sessions.**
- c) **Are overseas managers (OVMs) required to complete any specific training to enable them in their role implementing these regulations when joining the Trust?** - The Trust does not have an Overseas Visitors Manager. The Overseas Visitors Officer has been in post for many years and there has been no change in personnel.
- i) **If so is this training face-to-face or an online e-learning module?** N/A
ii) **Please provide copies of any assessments made with regards to whether OVMs employed by the Trust should be required to hold an Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) registration?** None
iii) **Please confirm whether OVMs employed by the Trust have received any immigration advisory training enabling registration with the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) commissioner. This could be OISC qualification levels 1-3, or the law society Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme (IAAS) levels 1-2.** - No
3. **This question relates to how the Trust is monitoring the impact of the charging policies:**
- a) **Please provide copies of any audit reports monitoring the impact of the charging policy on service users following implementation.** – No audits have taken place
- b) **In particular please provide any documents detailing how the Trust is monitoring for evidence of systematic discrimination as a result of these policies.** – As above

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fleming', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mary Fleming
Chief Operating Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113