

22 January 2019

Our Ref: RFI 26679

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to the Trust's policies on Charging Overseas Visitors
for NHS Services**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 21 December 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Treanor
Information Governance Assistant

This request seeks information about decisions made under the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 (the ‘2015 Regulations’), amended most recently by the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. The Department of Health and Social Care has published national guidance on the implementation of the same entitled “Guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations” (May 2018).

Trust policies on charging overseas visitors for NHS services

Q1. Please provide information as to whether the Trust has issued or adopted any local policies, instructions or guidance, published or unpublished, concerning the application of NHS Overseas Visitors Regulations 2015 (as amended) and/or the application of the national guidance from the DOHSC as described above.

a) If so, please provide a copy of the same.

b) If not, please confirm that no such policies, instructions or guidance are held.

A1. The Trust has no policy, instruction or guidance concerning the application of NHS Overseas Visitors Regulations 2015.

Information specific to maternity services

Q2. Please provide information as to whether the Trust has issued or adopted any local policies, instructions or guidance to those providing maternity services within the Trust concerning the operation of Regulation 9 (f) (i) – (iv) of the NHS Overseas Visitors Charging Regulations, namely the exemption for “services provided for the treatment of a condition caused by (i) torture; (ii) female genital mutilation; (iii) domestic violence; or (iv) sexual violence, provided that the overseas visitor has not travelled to the United Kingdom for the purpose of seeking that treatment”.

a) If so, please provide a copy of the same.

b) If not, please confirm that no such policies, instructions or guidance are held.

A2. The Trust has no policy, instruction or guidance to those providing maternity services within the Trust concerning the operation of Regulation 9 (f) (i) – (iv) of the NHS Overseas Visitors Charging Regulations.

Q3. We further request a copy of any standard pro forma used at the woman’s first ante natal booking appointment with maternity services.

A3. The Trust uses the computerised Regional NIMATS system. A manual copy is attached – see Document 1.

Q4. *Within maternity services provided by the Trust, for the years 2016 - 2017 (separately) what was the percentage of women attending their booking appointments at:*

a) 10 weeks gestational age and over (total)

A4a). 2016 – 3%

2017 – 3%

And of those:

b) 10 weeks +1 day – 12 weeks +6 days

A4b). 2016 – 65%

2017 – 68%

c) 13-20 weeks

A4c) 2016 – 9%

2017 – 9%

c) Over 20 weeks

A4d) 2016 – 3%

2017 – 3%

Q5. *For the same period what percentage of the above women at 4 (a) - (d) were subject to charges for NHS maternity services?*

A5. The stage of pregnancy is not recorded by the Patient Paying Team as this information is not required for billing purposes.

Q6. *For the same period what percentage of the women at 4 (a) were deemed to be a 'high risk' pregnancy in accordance with NICE guidelines?*

A6. The Trust does not record this information.