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Request for Information Reference 12.18.24

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Email only

7 February 2019

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information received on 21 December 2018 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding charges to overseas visitors. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***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***

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information as to whether the Trust has issued or adopted any local policies, instructions or guidance, published or unpublished, concerning the application of NHS Overseas Visitors Regulations 2015 (as amended) and/or the application of the national guidance from the DOHSC as described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

Answer: Please see R26 procedure and Trust overseas policy attached.

### ***Information specific to maternity services***

**2. 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.**

Answer: Please see attached.

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

Answer: The Trust does not have anything specific for maternity but have a generic pre- attendance form that ALL patients are given for all services (see attached pre-attendance form).

**4. 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) and of those:**
- b. 10 weeks +1 day – 12 weeks +6 days**
- c. 13-20 weeks**
- d. Over 20 weeks**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

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

Answer: 2016: 10%  
2017: 15.06%

**6. 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?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information.

In line with the Information Commissioner’s directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our

disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive  
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**