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Request for Information Reference: 12.18.26

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Email only

25 January 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 24 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 the 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).***

***Please provide the following information:  
Exemptions from charging for overseas visitors***

***1. For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals who were deemed exempt from charges for NHS services (including those who were deemed exempt at a later point pursuant to Regulation 6A of the 2015 Regulations) provided pursuant to:***

- a. Regulation 9 (f) of the 2015 Regulations in total - 0***
- b. Regulation 9 (f) (i) (torture) - 0***
- c. Regulation 9 (f) (ii) (female genital mutilation) - 0***
- d. Regulation 9 (f) (iii) (domestic violence) - 0***
- e. Regulation 9 (f) (iv) (sexual violence) - 0***

***2. For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals deemed exempt from charges pursuant to:***

- a. Regulation 10 (2) of the 2015 Regulations in total?***

Answer: 2016: 136      2017: 245

**b. Regulation 10 (2) (a) (IHS paid)?**

Answer: 2016: 136      2017: 245

**c. Regulation 10 (2) (b) (an exemption from the IHS applies)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**d. Regulation 10 (2) (c) (a reduction or waiver from the IHS applies)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**e. Regulation 10 (2) (d) (a partial refund of the IHS has been made)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**3. For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals deemed exempt from charges pursuant to 10 (2) of the 2015 Regulations for whom the relevant period is:**

**a. As defined under Regulation 10 (1) (a) (the period of leave granted)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**b. As defined under Regulation 10 (1) (b) (extension of leave provisions)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**4. For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals deemed exempt (including those who were deemed exempt at a later point pursuant to Regulation 6 of the 2015 Regulations) from charges pursuant to:**

**a. Regulation 15 of the 2015 Regulations in total?**

Answer: 2016: 37                      2017: 47

**b. Regulation 15 (a) and (aa) (those granted asylum and humanitarian protection and their dependents)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**c. Regulation 15 (b) and (ba) (those who have applied for asylum or humanitarian protection and their dependents)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**d. Regulation 15 (c) (those supported under s.95 Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**e. Regulation 15 (d) (i) (those supported under s.4 (2) Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**f. Regulation 15 (d) (iii) (those supported under Part 1 of the Care Act)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**g. Regulation 15 (e) (a child looked after by the local authority)?**

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information

**5. For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of individuals deemed exempt from charges pursuant to Regulation 16 (1) of the 2015 Regulations in total (please include those who were deemed exempt at a later point pursuant to Regulation 6)?**

Answer: None.

**NHS Debts for charges for overseas visitors**

**6. For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) the number of invoices for NHS debts for overseas visitors' charges which have been written off for accounting purposes?**

Answer:

Period	No. of invoices written off	Value	
2015/16	2	£8,841.55	
2016/17	50	£15,190.70	
		£24,032.25	TOTAL

**7. For the years 2016 and 2017 (separately) what was the total sum of the debt for overseas visitors' charges that was written off for accounting purposes for each year within the Trust (at the rate charged to the Trust, that is, 75%)?**

Answer: Please see below

**8. Of the debts written off for accounting purposes at question 6 above, what was the average debt?**

Answer:

Average	52	£462.16
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Points to note:

- The Trust has provided the information above based on financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- The average is for the period 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- There is no rate charged to the Trust as per Q7. The amount invoiced and either received or not received is fully accounted for by the Trust.

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**