

18-0506 FOI request: Policies & MOUs NHS charging of overseas visitors

Thank you for your FOI request sent on 5th May 2018.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust holds information that falls within the definition in your request which is set out below:

1. The disclosure of a Home Office document has revealed that at least 16 NHS trusts have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Home Office in order to prevent 'upfront access to healthcare to which illegal migrants are not entitled'.

a. Has your NHS trust entered into such an MoU?

No

b. Please provide a copy of the MoU if so.

N/A

2. The same document reveals that at least 20 NHS trusts have been visited by Home Office Local Partnership managers to establish 'robust immigration status checking systems'.

a. Has your NHS trust had such a visit?

No

b. Please provide details of any such visit or visits including, but not limited to:

- i. Agendas of any meetings with Home Office Local Partnership managers;**
- ii. Minutes of any such meetings, if available;**
- iii. Documents/information packs/brochures/training materials/guidance relating to the visit or visits or created as a result of engagement with Home Office Local Partnership managers.**

N/A

c. Please provide documents/guidance/procedures as to the immigration status checking system that you have in place.

Our staff carry out checks on all patients when registering for treatment or visiting the hospital. This is carried out at reception where staff are scripted to ask patients to provide evidence of residence in the UK. For instance, a patient may be British and hold a British passport, but because they do not live in the UK for the majority of their time, they may need to pay but are not aware of this. A check is also undertaken when the outpatient appointment is booked. Staff check for, valid UK addresses, NHS numbers, GP registration and any other indicators of origin. Further to this, an SQL report is received every morning which indicates which patients that appear on the system may not be entitled to free treatment. Staff will arrange to meet with patients to clarify and arrange payment.

3. Please also provide documents or information as to efforts that have been made to discharge the Trust's public sector equality duty in implementing the regulations. These would usually include, but are not limited to:

- a. Equality impact assessments;**
- b. Delivery of training to staff on implementation and avoiding discrimination;**
- c. Written policies and guidance on implementation of the charging regime;**
- d. Systems to monitor the impact of the charging regime on your service users, particularly those belonging to BME groups, foreign nationals, or those with other protected characteristics and any findings from such monitoring.**

As illustrated above, we have nothing to provide.