



06 April 2017

Information Rights & Compliance Team
99 Waverley Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804954
Email: foi@hpft.nhs.uk

Our Ref: FOI 2545

Thank you for your request concerning the identification of foreign nationals prior to providing care.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

I request the following information:

1. **Prior to April 2017, did the Trust have policy the requesting of identification of foreign nationals prior to providing care?**

No.

2. **In the 12 months to April 2017, did employees or others providing Trust services check any patients' passports before giving them care?**
 - a) **Which services?**
 - b) **How many patients were asked for identification in the 12 months to April 2017**
 - c) **How many were asked to provide passports**
 - d) **How many those asked to provide identification did not go on to seek care?**

We are a provider of mental health and specialist learning disability services therefore this may not really be applicable to us.

Most referrals to our services are made by GPs although through our Single Point of Access (SPA) we operate an open referral system which also includes referrals from health/social care providers, other agencies, self-referrals and carer/parent/family member referrals.

At triage, SPA will be responsible for ensuring that the eligibility criteria for each service are met as set out in the relevant service operational policy i.e. GP check and therefore identifying the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) Responsible Commissioner prior to admission. Patients who aren't the responsibility of the Hertfordshire CCGs would only be admitted in an emergency situation and where this has happened during 2016/17 they have only been patients of other CCGs.

3. What preparations did you make for the new up-front charges for non-emergency care from April 2017?

We have made all our wards and bed management aware of the legal requirement to recover the costs upfront and in full for any care not deemed urgent or immediately necessary for overseas visitors and migrants.

4. What projections or estimates have been made of

a) The cost of implementation?

We estimate implementation costs to be insignificant.

b) The revenue it will bring in?

Revenue costs would also be insignificant.

c) The potential to deter people from seeking care and consequences on their health and public health?

We do not hold this information¹.

d) Compliance with equality and discrimination rules?

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights are already at the heart of the work of HPFT.

5. How do you collect charges for overseas patients after care? Do you have figures and are they available for the cost of doing this, the revenue it brought in, the number of people contacted and the number who paid in the 12 months to April 2016?

This has not happened in 16/17

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

**Sue Smith
FOI/DPA Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).



¹ Section 1(1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.