

2 March 2023

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI/04609

Thank you for your request concerning private Mental Health hospital placements.

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

- 1. The total number of NHS patients sent to private inpatient mental health hospitals, funded by your trust, by financial year, since 2010.**
- 2. The total number of days that NHS patients spent at a private inpatient mental health hospital, funded by your trust, by financial year, since 2010.**
- 3. The average cost per day of sending NHS patients to private inpatient mental health hospitals, funded by your trust, by financial year, since 2010.**

We are unable to provide you with the requested breakdown of service users being sent to a private inpatient Mental Health hospital for the past 12 years as we do not report in the manner that you describe.

We report on service users being sent out of area but private hospitals are not identified. In order for us to provide this information would involve us manually going through every service users record we have placed out of area from 2010 to date (in excess of 9,840 records). At a conservative estimate of 5 mins per record, this would equate to a minimum of 820 hours work. Therefore we have applied exemption S12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.¹

In addition, we do not believe reading through individuals medical records for the purpose of a FOI request would be in line with the GDPR Data Protection Principles or the Caldicott Principles.

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, 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
Information Rights 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 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit