

Your request

You requested the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, relating to the health board's implementation of the '*NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, as amended by the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020*', hereafter referred to as '*the charging policy*'.

The following requests relate to the expenditure and income generated from the 'charging policy', excluding any generated through private paying patients or monies claimed back from countries as part of any reciprocal healthcare arrangement.

1. As per the health board's application of the 'charging policy' for the financial year 2022-23 please provide (i) the total number of and (ii) the total value of:
 - a) Invoices generated;
 - b) Payments received v outstanding;
 - c) Credit notes issued after a patient has been invoiced for care and later found to be eligible for free treatment;
 - d) Invoices written off for accounting purposes due to a patient being considered destitute;
 - e) Debts passed onto debt collection agencies for recovery due to non-payment.
2. For financial years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, please provide the number of patients invoiced:
 - a) who were aged 0-16;
 - b) who were charged for maternity or obstetric care (including antenatal care and child birth);
 - c) for cancer treatment.
3. Please provide a breakdown by speciality, department, or similar categorisation of:
 - a) the number of patients currently on a repayment plan with the health board for debt incurred under the charging policy;
 - b) a breakdown by value of repayment (for example, the number of patients paying £1/month, £5/month, £10/month, etc.)
4. Please share any formal or informal criteria, policies, procedures, or similar the trust currently uses or has used since 2018 to determine how:
 - a) A patient's debt is managed;
 - b) The trust agrees upon the value of a patient's monthly repayment plan.
5. For financial years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, please provide the total number of patients whose information has been shared with the Home Office in relation to a debt:
 - a) Greater than £500 owed for more than 2 months;
 - b) Greater than £500 owed for less than 2 months;
 - c) Less than £500.

Our response

1. Our response for points 1a and 1b is provided in the table below:

Payments	2022-23 Amount	No. of Invoices
Credited	£1,100	1
Not Paid	£2,808	3
Paid	£30,019	15
Repayment	£18,466	3
Total	£52,392	22

We do not hold information for the following questions:

1c no patient was eligible for free treatment.

1d no invoice has been written off.

1e no referrals to debt collection agencies have been made.

2. Our response for points 2a and 2b is provided in the table below:

Invoices/Type of Care		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Minor (Aged 0-16)		1	4	2	0	1
Child Birth		2	8	5	3	2
Maternity		0	2	0	0	0

We do hold information for point 2c as cancer treatment is not specifically listed on the invoice.

3. Our response for question 3a is provided in the table below:

Type of Care	Amount	No. of Patients
Cardiology	£4,059	1
Childbirth	£10,000	2
Diagnosis	£8,905	1
Maternity	£1,100	1
Outpatient	£825	1
Pathology	£16,722	3
Radiology	£9,850	4
Theatre	£11,705	3

Our response for question 3b is provided in the table below:

Breakdown by Value	Up to £50	Up to £100	Up to £150	Up to £600	£5,492	£7,000
No. of Patients	8	4	1	1	1	1

4. For points 4a and 4b, please refer to the attached recovery policy, and there are no set monthly repayment plans.
5. Our response for points 5a and 5c is provided in the table below:

Referred to Home Office	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Greater than £500	4	18	9	0	5
Less than £500	3	6	8	0	3

We do not hold information for point 5b as we have a 56-day referral policy to the debt collection agency before referring to the Home Office.