

FOI 2352

15/05/24

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Request:

1. How many letters from your trust requesting evidence of entitlement to free health service treatment have been sent for the following years:

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024 (to date)**

Response 1:

The number of letters issued from the Trust Access to Healthcare Team requesting evidence of entitlement to free health service treatment relating to the years:

- a. 2022 – 626
- b. 2023 – 642
- c. 2024 (to date) 145

2. How many questionnaires from these letters have been returned for the following years:

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024 (to date)**

Response 2:

- a. 2022 - 276
- b. 2023 - 249
- c. 2024 (to date) 51

3. How many of the returned questionnaires were received from EEA nationals in the following years:

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024 (to date)**

Response 3:



The Trust systems do not record nationality as part of our patient record. In order to provide you with the information, where it is available, would require an extensive manual exercise to review each response during the periods identified. Therefore, the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the appropriate limit as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It would exceed the £450 fee limit and is cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

For noting, the SHSCT records patients by the month of their referral, and not the date the letter was issued.

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