

FOI 2353

16th May 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question in full

The Home Office provides phone services, such as the Immigration Enforcement Checking and Advice Service (IECAS), which Trusts can call to get information on a patient's immigration status to determine whether or not they need to be charged.

1. Can you tell me whether the Trust carries out immigration checks using any service/method, such as:

- IECAS;
- The Status Verification and Enquiries Checking (SVEC) service;
- A local immigration officer;
- any other service/method;

2. If any of the above or other services are used, please provide please provide the following:

How many status checks were made for each of the following years:

a) by Year

i. 2022,

ii. 2023,

iii. 2024 (to date),

b) by Service (IECAS/SVEC/ local immigration officer/etc)

Southern Health and Social Care Trust Response

Q1. The Trust has a legal obligation in accordance with the Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules (HC 1511) October 2011, as amended, to identify patients who may be chargeable for their treatment and charge them accordingly.

When required the SHSCT completes checks of patient's immigration status via Home Office's Shared Code Checking Service

Q2. Unfortunately, the Trust does not maintain records in a format which would enable this information to be easily accessed. To provide this information would

entail an extensive manual exercise that has been estimated would require in excess of 18 hours staff time to complete. This would exceed the “appropriate limit” of £450 as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 (the ‘appropriate limit’ is calculated on a standard rate of £25 per hour).

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