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9th November 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 20/10/25.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please send me:

1) The number of employees that qualified for a free one year NHS Visa extension as stated by the Home Office during the period of 31st March – 1st October 2020.

< 10

Please note that for figures that are less than 10 we are unable to provide the exact number as it may be identifiable to individuals.

2) Please inform me details of how many of these applications were submitted.

< 10

Please note that for figures that are less than 10 we are unable to provide the exact number as it may be identifiable to individuals.

3) Please give reasons as to why any were not submitted, if they did qualify for the extension.

As above, the new guidance came in at the end of March 2020 and if an application is already submitted and cancelled is reapplied under new guidance. Please note that we are unable to give the exact number of applications resubmitted as its less than 10.

4) Please tell me what process was taken in order to ensure that no staff members that qualified for the extension were missed.

Regular reports are run from Electronic Staff Record to establish visa expiry dates. Any visa due to expire between 31st March 2020 – 1st October 2020 were advised they are eligible for a year's free extension and to return their Biometric Residence Permit to UKVI NHS team. We then sent their information and a postage tracking reference to the UKVI NHS team for processing.

5) Please tell me what process you have in place that ensures all international employees are supported during the pandemic.

Employees with visa issues were supported through the above guidelines.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust