



Trust Headquarters
Nexus House
4 Gatwick Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Date:

Email:

Dear,

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 230516.

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, relating to the trusts 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.

>>> [QUESTION 1] <<<

As per the trusts application of the 'charging policy' for each financial year from 2015-2023 please provide (i) the total number of and (ii) the total value of:

(1a)

Invoices generated

(1b)

Payments received

(1c)

Credit notes issued after a patient has been invoiced for care and later found to be eligible for free treatment

(1d)

Invoices written off for accounting purposes due to a patient being considered destitute as per the conditions set out in 13.72 and 13.73 of the charging policy.

(1e)

Debts passed onto debt collection agencies for recovery due to non-payment.

For each of the above requests from 1a to 1e inclusive, please provide a breakdown by speciality, department, or similar categorisation (see appendix 1 for example formatting).

>>> [QUESTION 2] <<<

Please provide a breakdown by speciality, department, or similar categorisation of (i) the number of patients currently on a repayment plan with the trust for debt incurred under the charging policy and (ii) a breakdown by value of repayment - For example, the number of patients paying £1/month, £5/month, £10/month, etc. (see appendix 1 for example formatting).

(2a)

Please also provide the number of patients who entered a new payment plan with the trust, for each financial year from 2015-2023.

>>> [QUESTION 3] <<<

Please share any formal or informal criteria, policies, procedures, or similar the trust currently uses or has used from 2015 - 2023 to determine how:

(a) A patient's debt is managed

(b) The trust agrees upon the value of a patient's monthly repayment plan.

>>> [QUESTION 4] <<<

For each financial year from 2015-2023, 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

For ease of work, I have attached an example formatting aid to assist data tabulation in the following link, which may be of use to your team.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NzEDi4c7KJLhAliyIrfvBVRA7Ts_cgY_O6Y_x-O9qD0/edit?usp=sharing

As an ambulance service, we do not have any patient charges.

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**

