## Healthier Communities, Outstanding Care



Direct Line: 01623 672232 Our Ref: 53598 E-mail: <u>sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net</u> King's Mill Hospital Mansfield Road Sutton in Ashfield Nottinghamshire NG17 4JL

Tel: 01623 622515 Join today: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

### **RE: Freedom of Information Request**

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested.

In your request you asked:

- 1. How many refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt in your trust?
- 2. How many female refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt in your trust?
- 3. How many female refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt due to accessing maternity care on the NHS in your trust?
- 4. What is the total amount of NHS debt refused asylum seekers hold in GBP in your trust?
- 5. What is the total amount of NHS debt female refused asylum seekers hold in GBP in your trust?
- 6. What is the total amount of NHS debt female refused asylum seekers hold due to accessing maternity care on the NHS in GBP in your trust?

# If possible, can you also provide historic information and break each data set down per year from 2010/11 to present.

Section 12 of the Act allows the Trust to refuse to deal with any requests where we estimate that responding to the request would exceed the cost limit. We have identified that questions 1-6 will exceed the cost limit. For public authorities the cost limit is £450 (18 hours). If responding to one part of a request would exceed the cost limit, we do not have to provide a response to any other parts of the request. Therefore, the estimated cost of processing your request is £50,000. This charge has been calculated in accordance with section 13 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information Fees Regulations.

In order to locate this information, we would need to review individual patient files for the last 13+ years, this is over 10,000 patients records.

## Home, Community, Hospital.

Patient Experience Team 01623 672222 sfh-tr.pet@nhs.net



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Chair Claire Ward Chief Executive Paul Robinson Information relating to charges, invoices etc for the earlier years is stored away from our office location and would require other internal departments to facilitate this for us. I have estimated that current capacity would allow us to review an average of 5 patient files and associated documents per day.

Therefore, I estimate that the minimum cost of satisfying your request will be  $\pounds$ 50,000 (2000 hours x  $\pounds$ 25 per hour) plus an hourly rate for the time charged by our Estates team to locate and transport the files that are no longer kept in our immediate vicinity

Under section 16 of the Act we are obliged to advise you to refine your request to narrow the scope in order to bring it within the appropriate limit. Can we suggest that the timescales for all questions are reduced, for example, to one calendar month. If the timescales are reduced to one calendar month, the Trust will be able to respond to all of your questions. If you are unable to reduce the scope of the request the Trust will be unable to continue processing your request until the fee is paid. If you wish to proceed with this request the fee will need to be paid within three calendar months. If the fee is not received by this date, I shall take it that you do not wish to pursue this request and will consider the request closed.

Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <u>https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/</u>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email <u>casework@ico.org.uk</u>.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email <u>sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net</u>.

Yours faithfully

#### Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the <u>Open Government Licence</u> (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the

licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

We can confirm that the Trust may hold (as defined in the Act) some of the information you have requested however it is not held in a readily retrievable form. We do not currently have a single document or file containing the specific data that you have requested, and our current systems are unable to provide a breakdown of data in the exact manner sought. The Trust would only be able to provide you with the information you requested by examining every individual patient case note and by cross-referencing this with information held electronically.