

Freedom of Information request 644-18

Request

This request seeks information about decisions made under the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 (the '2015 Regulations'), amended most recently by the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. The Department of Health and Social Care has published national guidance on the implementation of the same entitled "Guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations" (May 2018).

Trust policies on charging overseas visitors for NHS services

1. Please provide information as to whether the Trust has issued or adopted any local policies, instructions or guidance, published or unpublished, concerning the application of NHS Overseas Visitors Regulations 2015 (as amended) and/or the application of the national guidance from the DOHSC as described above.
 - a. If so, please provide a copy of the same.
 - b. If not, please confirm that no such policies, instructions or guidance are held.

Information specific to maternity services

2. Please provide information as to whether the Trust has issued or adopted any local policies, instructions or guidance to those providing maternity services within the Trust concerning the operation of Regulation 9 (f) (i) – (iv) of the NHS Overseas Visitors Charging Regulations, namely the exemption for "services provided for the treatment of a condition caused by (i) torture; (ii) female genital mutilation; (iii) domestic violence; or (iv) sexual violence, provided that the overseas visitor has not travelled to the United Kingdom for the purpose of seeking that treatment".
 - a. If so, please provide a copy of the same.
 - b. If not, please confirm that no such policies, instructions or guidance are held.
3. We further request a copy of any standard pro forma used at the a woman's first ante natal booking appointment with maternity services.
4. Within maternity services provided by the Trust, for the years 2016 - 2017 (separately) what was the percentage of women attending their booking appointments at:
 - a. 10 weeks gestational age and over (total)And of those:
 - b. 10 weeks +1 day – 12 weeks +6 days
 - c. 13-20 weeks
 - d. Over 20 weeks
5. For the same period what percentage of the above women at 4 (a) - (d) were subject to charges for NHS maternity services?
6. For the same period what percentage of the women at 4 (a) were deemed to be a 'high risk' pregnancy in accordance with NICE guidelines?

Response

1. Please find attached our policy which was approved for issue in 2013 across NHS Borders services:



Management of
Private Overseas (No

2. NHS Borders do not hold a specific maternity policy for overseas visitors, this is included in the document attached above.
3. Please find below a copy of the questions asked at a woman's first antenatal booking appointment which is held electronically:



antenatal_booking_r
eport.pdf

4. Please find below the percentage of women attending their booking appointments at:

a-c) NHS Borders only collect data on the number of booking appointments for women before 12 weeks and after 12 weeks, therefore under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A 2002 please find data on this time period:

Booking Appt	Before 12 weeks	12+ weeks
2016	75.73%	14.28%
2017	81.92%	15.22%

d) Over 20 weeks:

No data available as this is not collected.

5. Of the patients highlighted in 4 a-d please find below the percentage that were subject to charges:

2016 – 0

2017 – 0.18%

6. Please find below the percentage of women at 4(a) who were deemed to be a 'high risk' pregnancy:

2016 – This data is not recorded electronically and would only be held in a patient's notes. To extract this data would require a manual trawl of all notes and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not required to provide.

2017 – As above for the period to 15.06.2017. As of 16.06.2017 NHS Borders now record 'high risk' pregnancies on the Badgernet system therefore for the period 16.06.17 to 31.12.17 38.84% were recorded as 'high risk' pregnancies.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **644-18** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both

the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.