

Ref no: 065021019  
From: ARKOULIS, Nikolaos (MID ESSEX HOSPITAL SERVICES NHS TRUST)  
Date: 02/10/19  
Subject: Burns & Plastic surgery

## REQUEST & RESPONSE

1. What is your policy regarding charging patients for NHS treatment if they are found to be ineligible for free healthcare?

**This information is available in the DoH Charging Regulations Policy**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-nhs-visitors-implementing-the-charging-regulations>

2. What test do you use to ascertain whether someone is ordinarily resident in the UK and thus eligible for free treatment?

**All patients are asked on arrival in the Trust whether they have been resident in the UK for the last 12 months. If the response is No they are asked to complete a pre attendance form (available on DoH website)**

3. Which department is responsible for investigating whether a patient is entitled to free NHS treatment and does this department have any private affiliations?

**The Overseas and Private Patient Team.**

4. Specifically regarding patients who present with burn injuries, we would be most grateful if you could provide us with a table showing:

How many patients with burns have been admitted in your burns Centre / unit/ facility since 01/01/2015?

**1399 patients admitted to the Regional Burns Unit Ward since 01/01/2015 with a diagnosis of burns.**

How many of these patients were tested for ordinary residence since 01/01/2015 and how many of those tested were found not to be eligible

for free NHS treatment? Please could you provide dates of each patient's episode?

**\*Gathering this information would exceed the appropriate cost limit.**

How many of the ineligible patients were adults and how many were children?

**\*Gathering this information would exceed the appropriate cost limit.**

How much was each ineligible patient charged and how many of these charges have you recovered?

**\*Gathering this information would exceed the appropriate cost limit.**

How do you calculate costs for ineligible patients, i.e. what formula do you use? Is this a different formula to that used when calculating costs for patients entitled to free healthcare?

**To calculate the NHS cost for an overseas visitor the trust uses the latest mandatory tariff (or equivalent).**

### **Exemptions applied**

**\* Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in answering the remainder of your questions. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.**