

Date: Monday, 22nd January 2024
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 6083

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 6083

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 21st December 2023.

Your request was as follows:

This is an information request relating to NHS safe house patients.

Please include the following information for each of the following financial years; 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23:

What are the conditions that class as 'unsuitable housing' or 'clinically vulnerable' pertaining to patients that require NHS safe places?

Unsuitable housing leading to the provision of safe houses refers to the conditions that means social services must be called as referred to in this article

<https://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/news/safe-place-patients-who-are-homeless-after-hospital-stay>

If there are concerns re 'unsuitable housing' or if the person is 'clinically vulnerable', Occupational Therapy assess the suitability of the property for all patients in relation to a person's physical needs, if there is a change from their physical baseline on admission. If necessary, we will refer to Social Services to identify a suitable alternative placement for discharge. The Trust Discharge Planner is involved with this process. Patients are not discharged until a suitable discharge destination has been identified.

How many cases of this have been reported each year?

The Trust have had 1 case in the last 12 months. The data has not been captured for previous years however will be captured going forward, following the introduction of the duty to refer for homeless patients.

How many days did each patient stay?

170 days.

What were the reasons for their stay?

Trauma patient.

How much did it cost to keep each patient?

Approx. £61,489 - Please note this cost is not specific to the patient as this is calculated based on averages for all patients who have stayed on that ward

What was the reason for each patients' discharge?

Their original rented property was not suitable. A timely placement could not be identified by Social Services, therefore they remained in a hospital bed (as a place of safety) until a placement was identified.

Please see our response above in blue.

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, 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 the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 6083 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information