

FOI093 Response

Request

I am looking into the arrangements that trusts will be making to support staff with travel during the winter months.

Given the potential for resurgent COVID-19 waves, ongoing localised lockdowns as well as annual winter pressures, I am looking into arrangements that trusts will be making to support their staff in getting to and from work during 1 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021.

Please can I have a response to the following question?

1. What plans do you have in place to support staff with travel to and from work between 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021, in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns, locally or nationwide?
[Such as: booking hotel rooms; hiring private accommodation; paying for taxis; creating special rest rooms]

Response

We are very aware of the challenges we could face should a second wave of Covid-19 occur and we are in the process of updating and further developing our contingency plan, which will include issues related to staff. With this in mind, we do not have the finalised plan to share within the timescale for this FOI.

However, we can advise some of the measures that were put in place when the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the Trust, which included provisions such as alternative accommodation (within hotels), and providing meals and support for staff members' wellbeing.

During any winter, on occasions when there is travel disruption due to severe weather conditions, the Trust supports staff members with travel by providing taxis/ Trust transport vehicles to assist staff members in getting to and from work, and by recognising that journeys are likely to take longer. In addition to this if staff members wish to do so, provision is made for them to stay overnight in such severe conditions.