

FOI 013/2021 Response

Request

I am writing to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). It concerns the trust's placement of patients in inpatient mental health wards.

1. When it is not possible for the trust to place mental health patients in beds in services in the area, is it the trust's policy (formally or informally) to prioritize in-area beds for local residents/nationals and place foreign nationals further afield? If it is the policy, please provide the reasoning behind this policy.

2. Please provide copies of any policies which reference the trust's placement of foreign nationals in inpatient mental health beds.

3. Please state how many foreign nationals have been placed in out of area beds by the trust in the last three years 2018-21 (please provide a total and a total for each year). Please state how many foreign nationals have been placed in in-area beds by the trust in the last three years, 2018-21, (please provide a total and a total for each year).

4. Please state how many nationals have been placed in out of area beds by the trust in the last three years, 2018-21, (please provide a total and a total for each year). Please state how many nationals have been placed in in-area beds by the trust in the last three years, 2018-21, (please provide a total and a total for each year).

Response

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There are no policies in place to differentiate between British nationals and foreign nationals for admission into our inpatient wards, formally or informally.

All admissions are prioritised on clinical need; all patients for whom the Trust has provider responsibility are treated in line with their clinical needs. In addition to this, eligibility to a Trust bed is based on a GP registration within the areas the Trust is commissioned to provide mental health services.

The nature of a patient's nationality is not a relevant factor in the decision making for an admission into the Trust's inpatient services.

Please bear in mind that the Trust's out-of-area (OOA) beds are used in emergency situations, when there are no other beds available, and the clinical need is as such that not admitting a patient to a bed would be detrimental to the persons health or safety of others.

2. Please provide copies of any policies which reference the trust's placement of foreign nationals in inpatient mental health beds.

The Trust does not have a policy in relation to placement of foreign nationals for inpatient mental health beds.

Please bear in mind that inpatient beds are allocated on clinical needs, and eligibility to a Trust bed is based on a GP registration within the areas the Trust is commissioned to provide mental health services.

3. Please state how many foreign nationals have been placed in out of area beds by the trust in the last three years 2018-21 (please provide a total and a total for each year). Please state how many foreign nationals have been placed in in-area beds by the trust in the last three years, 2018-21, (please provide a total and a total for each year).

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet and note the following:

- The data provided is in relation to the following Trust inpatient services: adult acute, psychiatric intensive care units (PICU), Secure men's and secure women's services.
- The Nationality field within the Trust's patient administration system (Rio) is used to determine whether a patient is a foreign national. This field is not mandatory on Rio and therefore the field is not always completed, and you will note that there is a cohort of patients as a result for whom we are unable to confirm the nationality for.

4. Please state how many nationals have been placed in out of area beds by the trust in the last three years, 2018-21, (please provide a total and a total for each year). Please state how many nationals have been placed in in-area beds by the trust in the last three years, 2018-21, (please provide a total and a total for each year).

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