

**Information Governance**

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26 January 2024

**Our reference: FOI DA5115**

I am responding to your request for information received 15 December 2023. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Web: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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We promise to work together creatively to: learn 'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality of life and continuously improve our services.  
**We care . We respect . We are inclusive**

**Interim Chief Executive Officer:** Lorraine Sunduza  
**Chair:** Eileen Taylor

**Request:** I am trying to gain a national picture of how overseas departments in UK Trusts work. The data on overseas patients is held by individual NHS Trusts so my request to you is to help me build an idea of what is happening at a national scale. If you could provide this data for the last financial year that would be helpful.

**Question 1:** How many patients were invoiced by the overseas department for care?

**Answer:** Four patients.

**Question 2:** How many times were patients invoiced but later found to be exempt and entitled to free NHS care?

**Answer:** Zero.

**Question 3:** How many times were debt collectors instructed to collect the NHS debt that overseas patients owed?

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—  
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and  
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not engage the services of debt collectors as requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 4:** How much in GBP did your NHS trust spend on debt collectors?

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 4 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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