

## Title

### Refused Asylum seeker - NHS Debt

---

Reference Number: RDF2138-23

Date of Response: 04/01/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

#### Questions:

*I wish to request the following information under the FOI Act that Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust holds.*

- 1. How many refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt in your trust? \* <5*
- 2. How many females refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt in your trust? \* <5*
- 3. How many females refused asylum seekers hold NHS debt due to accessing maternity care on the NHS in your trust? \* <5*

Answers: For clarity, there are no relevant details for NDDH (Northern Service), the information below applies to RDE (Eastern Service) patients only.

The Trust applies Section 40 (2) \* <5 FOI exemption to the above questions 1,2 and 3. Where activity is 5 or less than 5, the Trust is unable to provide the exact information. We consider the data exempt on the following grounds:

The Trust considers that disclosure of the information risks identifying individuals. The reason for this is that the number of patients for which this applies is low. This and the fact that the data requested relates to the RDUH Health NHS Trust only and therefore relates to patients treated in a specific location (rather than covering a larger geographical area), increases the risk of identification or self-identification.

In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the GDPR, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

- 4. What is the total amount of NHS debt refused asylum seekers hold in GBP in your trust? Answer £18,147.*
- 5. What is the total amount of NHS debt female refused asylum seekers hold in GBP in your trust? Answer: £5,669.*
- 6. What is the total amount of NHS debt female refused asylum seekers hold due to accessing maternity care on the NHS in GBP in your trust? £5,669.*