

Title: Unpaid Patient Bills

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Reference Number: RDF1253-23

Date of Response: 07/02/23

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

*FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST*

1. *What was the total loss written off by your Trust in 2021/22 (regardless of when the debt was accumulated) that related to unpaid bills invoiced to patients or their representatives?*

Answer:

Eastern Services: £26,691

Northern Services: £33,655.88

2. *What was the biggest single loss written off by your Trust in 2021/22 (regardless of when the debt was accumulated) that related to an unpaid patient bill? Please state the total amount of this written off debt, the nationality of the patient and the department of the hospital where the majority of the bill was incurred.*

Answer:

Eastern Services: £9,895 – Oncology.

Northern Services: £24,706 – General Medicine.

The Trust has carefully considered your request for Nationality of the patient however, it declines to provide the specific details of the information requested under Section 40 (3a) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Trust recognises that whilst the information requested does not itself identify the patient(s), the questions ask for very specific and focused details, and due to the low number of cases involved to provide this detail would create a potential for the patient(s) concerned to be identified and it is likely the Trust would be in breach of the Data Protection Act principles.

The Trust believes that the release of such sensitive information meets the definition of personal data and disclosing the information would contravene one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. As such release of the information would be likely to cause distress to the individuals concerned.