

Reference:	FOI.8436.22
Subject:	Overseas patient charging policy
Date of Request:	10 March 2022

Requested:

I write to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on how you have instituted overseas patient charging and the costs of your overseas visitor management team at your trust, if you have one. Please can you tell me:

1. Whether you have an overseas visitor management team or a similar team? If NOT, who then is in charge of overseas patient charging in your trust in line with changes advised in the Department of Health's guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations, 2017 (amended 2021) and adopted by the devolved government?
2. What is the cost of the current team for the preceding year, or if established only recently following the changes in 2017 and subsequent changes post-Brexit, its cost of set up and estimated costs for 2021/22? (Note: this cost could include salaries, but also overheads including facilities and equipment used).
3. What, if any, charges have been levied to overseas patients in your trust by this team, and how much of this has been recouped?
4. What bodies or frameworks within the board are responsible for discharging its responsibilities under the Immigration Act of 2014/2016?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does have a Designated Overseas Officer for HDUHB including Primary, Secondary, Community and Mental Health Services.
2. The UHB does not hold the information on overhead and equipment costs. However, the Designated Overseas Officer's salary was remunerated at Agenda for Change (A4C) Band 6, during the 2020/21 financial year.
3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the total invoiced to overseas patients, the amount repaid and the amount outstanding, for the financial years 2018/19 through to 2021/ 28 February 2022.

Financial year	Total invoiced	Amount repaid	Amount outstanding
2018-2019	£82,632.00	£74,964.00	£7,668.00
2019-2020	£94,199.00	£65,411.00	£28,788.00
2020-2021	£17,587.00	£8,969.00	£8,618.00
2021-2022	£40,857.00	£21,094.00	£19,763.00
Total	£235,275.00	£170,438.00	£64,837.00

4. The UHB confirms that the Designated Overseas Officer has the responsibility to investigate patients' legal status in the United Kingdom by speaking with the patient, validating information and documents with the Home Office and checking on the systems within their remit. Any person not entitled to free NHS care is invoiced as per the Welsh Government guidelines.