

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Date received	31/08/2022	Subject	Ineligible for Treatment		
Passed to	Finance	Date passed	31/08/2022	Respond by	20/09/2022
Category	Private	FOI number	2022-362		

Question/s to be answered

1. The cost incurred for treating patients who were ineligible (by ineligible I mean any foreign patients who were not eligible for free healthcare in the UK, for example, those on holiday from countries outside of the EEA or Switzerland who still received treatment or emergency treatment without payment (therefore costing the NHS) for treatment in the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and up to August 2022, broken down by date, hospital and the cost of treatment and what the treatment was in each case.

NHS Shetland has no way of directly identifying an ineligible patient (as per the definition above). The data provided below is based on the number of patients treated by NHS Shetland who were coded as being resident outwith the UK **minus** the number of patients recorded with European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC).

In terms of a breakdown by date, hospital and treatment, and in accordance with FOISA s 16(1), NHS Shetland confirms that it holds the information requested but that it is exempt from disclosure under FOISA s 38(1)(b) as read with s (38)(2A) as there is a risk that this level of detail might identify individuals and disclosure would breach the confidentiality of the data subjects.

We have instead provided aggregated information by year and used average costs for treatment based on NHS Shetland's Unplanned Activity (UNPACS) tariffs for each of the years in question.

Numbers of patients

Year	Day Case	Inpatient	Outpatient	Grand Total
2019	3	13	0	16
2020	1	6	0	7
2021	3	1	0	4
2022 to July	2	3	0	5
Grand Total	9	23	0	37

UNPACS tariffs

Year	Day Case	Inpatient	Outpatient
2019	£1,175	£4,028	£269
2020	£1,210	£4,148	£277
2021	£2,121	£4,715	£293
2022	£2,227	£4,950	£308

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Costs

Year	Day Case	Inpatient	Outpatient	Grand Total
2019	£3,525	£52,364	£0	£55,889
2020	£1,210	£24,888	£0	£26,098
2021	£6,363	£4,715	£0	£11,078
2022 to July	£4,454	£14,850	£0	£19,304
Grand total	£15,552	£96,817	£0	£112,369

2. In each case state on what grounds the patient was ineligible for healthcare, e.g. foreign patient etc.

As per Q1, we have made assumptions based on the information available – these include the assumption that all of the patients were foreign nationals/residents.