

24 February 2017

Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

T: 020 3747 0000
E: nhsi.enquiries@nhs.net
W: improvement.nhs.uk

By email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act")

I refer to your email of **27 January 2017** in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS Improvement. Since 1 April 2016, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority ("TDA") are operating as an integrated organisation known as NHS Improvement. For the purposes of this decision, NHS Improvement means Monitor and TDA.

Your request

You made the following request:

"On the 17th of January, the Independent reported that 20 hospital trusts being given extra staff to help undertake a pilot scheme with NHS Improvement and the Home Office.

The scheme is designed to crack down on so called "health tourism".

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please give me the list of 20 hospital trusts involved in the scheme.

Could you also provide details of the staffing:

- *The number of staff being sent to each trust*
- *The projected costs of employing these staff*
- *Details of the employer of these staff. Are they NHS employees or the employees of an outside contractor/agency?*
- *The projected cost of the pilot*

Decision

NHS Improvement does not hold the information requested.

As means of background, the project to recover the cost of NHS treatments given to overseas visitors is a joint project between the Department of Health ("DH"), NHS Improvement and the Home Office. The new regulations, coming into force from April this year, will play an important role in meeting the Government's ambition to recover up to £500 million a year from overseas visitors who are not eligible for free care. The new measures will also require hospitals and NHS bodies to identify and flag a patient's chargeable status so that other parts of the NHS can more easily recoup costs from overseas visitors wherever charges apply. This follows government consultation on extending charging rules to areas of NHS care from December 2015 to March 2016 (the consultation document is available [here](#)). NHS Improvement will be working over the coming months with trusts that have the most potential to recover costs. The relevant press release is available in full [here](#).

We have responded to each limb of your request in turn:

- 1. Could you please give me the list of 20 hospital trusts involved in the scheme:**
We are still confirming trust involvement in the scheme. This may involve 20 trusts, but at this stage we are unable to confirm the number or names of the trusts involved.
- 2. The number of staff being sent to each trust:**
We are unable to confirm the number at this stage.
- 3. The projected costs of employing these staff:**
We are unable to confirm this until the recruitment process has finished.
- 4. Details of the employer of these staff. Are they NHS employees or the employees of an outside contractor/agency?**
Where possible, staff will be seconded from trusts or will be ex-NHS staff. Staff will be employed under DH terms and conditions.
- 5. The projected cost of the pilot:**
We do not hold this information.

Review rights

If you consider that your request for information has not been properly handled or if you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you can try to resolve this informally with the person who dealt with your request. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek an internal review within NHS Improvement of the issue or the decision. A senior member of NHS Improvement's staff, who has not previously been involved with your request, will undertake that review.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to FOI Request Reviews, NHS Improvement, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG or by email to nhsi.foi@nhs.net.

Publication

Please note that this letter will shortly be published on our website. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the FOI Act is disclosed to the public at large. We will, of course, remove your personal information (e.g. your name and contact details) from the version of the letter published on our website to protect your personal information from general disclosure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Dawson', with a large, stylized initial 'N'.

Nick Dawson
Transformation and Turnaround - Manager

