Overseas Patients

Updated: 2 May 2017

St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust current response to FOI requests regarding Overseas Patients (pilot schemes)

The pilot schemes are part of an on-going research project. Once this project is complete a report on it will be published either locally, or nationally collating results from all the pilot sites.

Under section 22A of the Freedom of Information Act information related to an ongoing research project is exempt from disclosure if the intention is to publish the outcomes of the research. This is because releasing any information while the research is ongoing could skew the results of the research. We recognise there is a legitimate public interest in this pilot, but we must also consider the wider public interest in the completion of the pilots and deriving the learning and lessons we need from them in order to ensure the most efficient allocation of public resources in the future. We also must consider the interests of the patients who may be involved in the pilot in that we do not wish to risk discouraging people from seeking healthcare that they need in a timely manner. On balance therefore we have decided not to disclose.