

8 July 2024

BY EMAIL

Our Ref: FOI 2217

Dear 

Your request for information was received on 5th June 2024 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested in relation to immigration data.

Please find a response as follows:

- 1) I would like to know if the Home Office has established a data-sharing agreements with the Department of Health (NI), the Strategic Planning and Performance Group, Health and Social Care Trusts or any other associated bodies allowing it to obtain confidential non-clinical personal information of patients suspected of not having immigration status in Northern Ireland?**

BSO does not have such an agreement with the Home Office, as BSO are considered processors of information on behalf of the HSC Trusts. The authority for BSO to share the required Trust information with the Home Office is included in the Data Sharing Agreement between BSO Shared Services and the HSC Trusts.

The BSO cannot provide any comment on any arrangements between other bodies.

- 2) Could you provide us with the annual number of migrants charged for health care from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024 broken down by the individual's country of origin and the sums raised from each country of origin. Could you set out whether any migrant has been wrongly charged for health care services and, if so, how much money was raised and whether any monies were repaid?**

BSO's remit is to recoup monies owed on behalf of its clients. The BSO is not routinely provided with information on whether a service user is a migrant or otherwise. This information is therefore not held by BSO.



I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

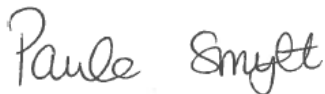
If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,



for Karen Bailey
Chief Executive