Freedom of Information

Thank you for your 11/07/14 request for the following information:

I am aware you may have received a similar request recently, but this request is for more detail than has been previously disclosed, if it is available.

There have been newspaper reports of patients being ‘kicked out’ of hospital overnight, but I’m interested in finding out how many of these discharges actually involved direction by a clinical member of staff, and how many were for other reasons, such as self discharges etc. You may not readily hold this data, but it would be just as helpful for me to know this.

My request is outlined below.

For the financial year 2013-14:

1) The number of patients recorded as discharged between the hours of 23:00 and 06:00 and the percentage of total discharges this represents

Answer: Bed movements and discharges are recorded on our Patient Administration System. This system cannot be used to reliably determine the actual number of patient bed moves and discharges between 11pm - 6am. The only way to provide reliable data would be through extensive validation or by carrying out an audit, both of which are beyond the scope of a Freedom of Information request.

To undertake this piece of work would take in excess of the appropriate limit set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 12 (1)) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The appropriate limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Consequently, the Trust is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to retrieve the above information. I regret to inform you that we shall not process your request to the above question further.

2) A breakdown of these discharges by reason for discharge, specifically for the following categories:
   a. medical advice
   b. self-discharges
   c. discharges by a relative
   d. deceased
   e. any other reasons specified by your records

Answer: Please see response to A.

3) Please advise whether your data records the time of discharge or the time at which the discharge was processed, and any further guidance you are able to give on the accuracy or reliability of the data you are releasing.

Answer: Please see response to A.

4) If it does not exceed cost limits, the same request applying to data for the 2012-13 financial year.

Answer: Please see response to A.