

Letter by Email to:
HealthandSport@parliament.scot

NHS Lanarkshire
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Mr Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Date: 5 December 2018
Our Ref: CC/JM
Direct Line: 01698 858176
Email: calum.campbell@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Mr Macdonald

ANTICIPATED UK HEALTHCARE (INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS) BILL – LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MEMORANDUM

Further to your letter dated 27 November 2018 regarding the above, apologies for the delay in replying.

In response to your questions:

1. How do you identify (non-UK) EEA citizens using NHS services in your board area (on behalf of the DWP)?

Non-UK EEA citizens are not identified. Several years ago we followed up a pilot carried out by another Board who had invested in additional staffing to follow this up and claim against the national budget available. The amount recovered was half of the cost of the staff required to follow this up, so it was not considered a cost effective use of NHS resources.

2. How much does it cost the board to provide treatment for (non-UK) EEA individuals?

Unknown.

3. How many (non-UK) EEA individuals using NHS services of the board were reported to DWP in the last five years?

None

4. What costs to the boards were reported to the DWP incurred by (non-UK) EEA individuals in the last five years?

None

5. What means does the board use to identify and recover costs for non EEA citizens who are not eligible for NHS treatment?

Guidance has been supplied to our medical records staff and the Acute hospitals pick up potential cases through A & E registration or when individual has no CHI number. This can be ineffective if individual has been to GP and been given a CHI number.

The Board has worked on local communications to enhance this and Counter Fraud Services have also considered the issue at a national level but a comprehensive solution has not been found. The Board or Counter Fraud Services will also receive anonymous tips or Home Office queries which are followed up by our Fraud Liaison officer. Once identified, the Board will raise an invoice based on the costs of the treatment received. If the invoice is not paid this will be reported to the Home Office. Re-entry to the UK will not be permitted until any outstanding NHS debt is paid.

6. In the last five financial years, how much did treatment cost for these (non EEA) individuals and how much was recovered?

There has been £134,979.87 invoiced from which £41,892.78 has been recovered and the remainder has either been written off or is still outstanding. We are also in the process of raising a further invoice for £30,106.00.

Yours sincerely



Calum Campbell
Chief Executive