

**Reference Number:** FOI/LHCH/2017097  
**From:** Press/Media  
**Date:** 05 April 2017  
**Subject:** A&E beds and upfront charging

- Q1 As of April 2010, the total number of Accident and Emergency beds within the Trust (including predecessor Trusts)
- Q2 As of March 2011, the total number of Accident and Emergency beds within the Trust (including predecessor Trusts)
- Q3 As of April 2017, the total number of Accident and Emergency beds within the Trust
- Q4 Please list any Accident and Emergency wards or units that have been permanently closed since April 2010. Please state how many A&E beds they included at point of closure.
- Q5 Please provide the business case or management report/review underpinning each closure listed in response to question 4
- Q6 Please list any Accident and Emergency wards or units that have been permanently opened since April 2010. Please state how many A&E beds they include.
- A1-6 Information not held - Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital is a specialist adult cardiothoracic centre and does not provide A&E services or have an A&E Department.
- Q7 What is the Trust's policy on treating overseas patients who are eligible to be charged upfront for care but are not able or willing to pay upfront?
- A7 For those unwilling/unable, we speak to the relatives, and if unsuccessful, we raise a bill to the patient, and also send a copy of the bill to CCI Legal, who deal with our debt collection.
- Q8 What is the Trust's policy on upfront charging for overseas patients where it is not possible to establish the cost of care upfront?
- A8 We take payment for the treatment that is certain, and let them know that this may change subject to what else (treatment) the doctors/surgeons have to undertake during the patient's stay at the hospital. Prior to discharge, we extract the remaining payment. If they refuse, we follow the process mentioned above. (A7 answer)
- Q9 What is the Trust's policy towards clinical staff who refuse to enforce upfront payment?
- A9 It is usually not the clinical staff who undertake this responsibility. Administration and managerial staff are responsible for this part of the process.

- Q10 What is the Trust's policy on identifying which patients need to be asked for proof of residency in relation to upfront charging, and what form does that proof take?
- A10 If a patient does not have an NHS number or a registered GP, it triggers the process of extra checks. This is done via passports, permanent residence cards or ILR visas which establish residency. Also, if the patient has the European Health insurance card, they are exempt from paying for treatment.