

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: [EPUT.FOI.21.1935](#)

Date Received: [Legal Team](#)

Information Requested:

1. The number of nurses or support workers who support patients regarding their housing while they are inpatient in a mental health unit. These could be housing officers, housing support workers, special housing nurses, or similar professions that are specialised in housing support.

[Patients are supported by, amongst others, ward staff, Discharge Coordinators, OT's, community teams, housing teams from the various councils, probation workers, personal advisors, friends and family. There are also a number of other organisations who provide this support for those with more complex cases, e.g. Phoenix, Horizon project, Full Circle. The type of support received and who provides this support is dependent on the need identified as part of assessment when admitted to a ward. Work is done collaboratively with all relevant agencies for each individual.](#)

[The Trust is unable to provide exact numbers due to the multi-agency approach to managing accommodation/homelessness. It is specific to the individual and their needs as to who and how many people are involved](#)

2. The protocol for discharging homeless patients or patients who face homelessness after their discharge. Please provide a document with the discharge policy or, if there is no document, please state what the protocol is.

[Discharge planning for someone who is, or is potentially going to be, homeless on discharge is done primarily in accordance with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. If they are on the Assessment Unit and are to be discharged from there, following a short admission, a Duty to Refer is done as a priority. If they are to be transferred to a treatment bed the Duty to Refer is done at a later date and closer to discharge date as there is a time limit applied.](#)

[The Trust believes that its Discharge & Transfer Clinical Guideline Policy is available on its public website and is therefore unable to provide you with this information direct as the Freedom of Information Act prohibits the re-release of information that is already published within the public domain. The Trust is therefore applying Section 21 Exemption \(Information accessible to applicant by other means\).](#)

[However in an effort to be helpful we can provide you with the name and the link on where to locate the Policy you have requested:](#)

[Name: Discharge & Transfer Clinical Guideline](#)

[Link: <https://eput.nhs.uk/publication-category/cg24-discharge-and-transfer-clinical-guidelines/>](#)

3. The number of nurses or support workers who support mental health patients regarding their housing while they are in the community. These could be housing

officers, housing support workers, special housing nurses, or similar professions that are specialised in housing support.

Please see response to Question 1. Community support are the same ones as stated in question one, with the exception of ward based staff/teams. Those involved is determined by the specific needs of the individual and collaborative working is undertaken to address need as far as is practicable

The Trust is unable to provide exact numbers due to the multi-agency approach to managing accommodation/homelessness. It is specific to the individual and their needs as to who and how many people are involved

Applied Exemption:

Section 21: Information accessible to applicant by other means:

- (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—
 - (a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
 - (b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>