

Dear Vanessa,

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that our response is:

**Request:**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**Response:**

The Trust has now had the opportunity to fully consider your request and responds as follows:

- 1 - We do not employ housing specialists in mental health inpatient services. Our inpatient services work with the relevant teams in other agencies as appropriate. We have a dedicated Delays Discharge Coordinator who has a vast knowledge on housing pathways and gets involved to ensure patient placements are appropriate and suit their needs.
- 2 - A duty to refer is completed for each homeless patient as soon as this is apparent. This is shared with the discharge coordinator and care coordinator where applicable. Depending on the circumstances, the patient may be supported to contact housing for emergency accommodation/to be provided with funded B&B accommodation.
- 3 - We do not employ housing specialists, we work with the relevant teams in other agencies as appropriate.

The information supplied to you in this communication, continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to re-use the information supplied, in whole or in part, for any other purpose e.g. commercial publications, please write to me stating what information you wish to re-use, the purpose(s) you wish to re-use the information for. We will respond within 20 working days of receiving your request with any conditions and charges that relate to the re-use of the information in accordance with the Re-use of Public Section Information Regulations 2005.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me, quoting the reference above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact myself in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust, Trust HQ, Sentinel House, 4-6 Nuffield Road, Poole, Dorset BH17 0RB

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information Coordinator

<http://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/>

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE – FOR FUTURE SUBMISSION OF FOI REQUESTS TO DORSET HEALTHCARE, PLEASE USE THE SIMPLE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM THAT CAN BE FOUND ON THE TRUST WEBSITE - [DORSET HEALTHCARE FOI APPLICATION FORM](#)**