

October 2011

*Under the freedom of information act, please supply me with the following:*

- 1. I am looking for emails / investigations / assessments / reports within your trust and about hospitals in your trust since 2008, on the subject of health tourism, health tourists, foreign patients (who do not qualify for NHS care) not paying for treatment, foreign patients failing to pay for treatment, bad debts as a result of foreign patients not paying for treatment on the NHS in hospitals in your trust.*

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it already reasonably accessible to you. The Trust Annual Reports are available under the heading 'General Information' in the section 'How we run the hospital' on our website [www.southend.nhs.uk](http://www.southend.nhs.uk).

The Trust Annual Report 2010/11 provides information about 'Losses and Special Payments' which can be found on page 87 and on page 112, there is a breakdown of losses, which includes details of overseas visitors.

- 2. Please send your most recent policy documents / guidelines you have currently in place - on the issue of how to deal with those who are not entitled to NHS care (ie not from one of the arrangement countries / EU) – accessing NHS (ie not private) treatment within your hospital(s) and who potentially may not pay for it.*

We have various documents which are used to assess a person's eligibility for NHS treatment and care. Also we had a Trust's press release and posters are displayed around the hospital. Copies of these documents are available on request.

We also follow the Department of Health guidance.