FOI 3321

Date 24/09/2024

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

1. Please could you state if your hospital Trust has a specific written policy/guidelines on what should happen when a translator/interpreter is accompanying a patient and they are in a queue for a clinic; specifically in relation to whether the patient and the translator/interpreter are moved forward in the queue? If so, could you provide me with a copy of that policy/guidelines.

The Trust does not have a specific written policy/guidance that covers this. Patients attend clinics with an interpreter should have a pre booked, allocated time and should be seen as per booking unless there are exceptional circumstances.

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Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests for internal review should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to: dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk. This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

*FOI Officer*

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust