FOI 3438

Date 28/11/2024

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. How many Wheelshare wheelchairs are in operation in NHS Bedfordshire Hospitals?

32 wheelchairs across both sites

1. How many payments were made to Wheelshare over the last year for wheelchair use in NHS Bedfordshire Hospitals?

None

1. Who receives the money from these payments - is it Wheelshare directly?

Yes it is Wheelshare

1. If the funding goes to Wheelshare directly and the hospital receives no share, why do NHS Bedfordshire Hospitals have these in place?

To offer good quality, regularly serviced wheelchairs in a secured well signposted location.

1. What is the criteria for a patient to be denied a wheelchair free of charge and thus require to use the Wheelshare service?

No patient is directly denied access to a ‘normal’ non Wheelshare wheelchair, but they are not always available as they are often stolen. Over the last two years there has been 4 occasions where a wheelchair could not be provided.

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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