

freedom.information@wvt.nhs.uk

15 October 2020

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST FOI2020/0124

Thank you for your request for information.

Wye Valley NHS Trust responds:

////////////////////REQUEST

I am looking into the arrangements that trusts will be making to support staff with travel during the winter months.

Given the potential for resurgent COVID-19 waves, ongoing localised lockdowns as well as annual winter pressures, I am looking into arrangements that trusts will be making to support their staff in getting to and from work during 1 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021.

Please can I have a response to the following question?

What plans do you have in place to support staff with travel to and from work between 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021, in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns, locally or nationwide?

[Such as: booking hotel rooms; hiring private accommodation; paying for taxis; creating special rest rooms]

The Trust's response to COVID-19 is covered by its standard adverse weather emergency response policy which is outlined below.

In terms of weather disruption, plans would be the same as previous years – see severe weather plan attached below. Depending on the severity of the weather alerts received, the appropriate adverse control team/cell will be initiated to manage the Trust's response, in conjunction with partner organisations and multi-agency teams in the community (i.e. Police forces and Fire Service). Considerations include continuing to provide safe working environments, travel arrangements and accommodation.

Please see attached .pdf document.

During the height of the COVID pandemic/lockdown the Trust organised local hotel rooms to be made available to staff, in addition to on-site accommodation, as part of the COVID Accommodation Hub, especially if family were isolating etc. However take-up was very low.

Please note that a record of previous Trust FOI responses is now available to consult online by visiting:

<https://www.wyevalley.nhs.uk/about-us/information-requests/freedom-of-information-requests.aspx>

If you have queries or any concerns contact details are given at the top of the letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:

Information Governance/Privacy Officer
Wye Valley NHS Trust
Monkmoor Court
31-34 Commercial Road
Hereford
HR1 2DX
Email: freedom.information@wvt.nhs.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Coordinator

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