

J Padget

FOI Reference: 4401608

request-801876-28a3fe42@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 19 November 2021

Dear J Padget,

Your Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request, detailed below, which we received on 26 October 2021.

"Unclear whether this is a matter for you or some other office. Please advise:
Whether it be for official or unofficial reasons, I request policy document dealing with
persons without access to NHS health care."

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are writing to advise you that we have established that the information you requested is not held by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). We suggest that you contact [NHS England](#) to request this information.

Although we are not the appropriate body to have a policy on this matter, we can provide you with links to some work we have done in this area.

- a. Our 2018 work around access to healthcare for asylum-seekers, including these links:
 - i. [Making sure people seeking and refused asylum can access healthcare: what needs to change?](#)
 - ii. [Access to healthcare for people seeking and refused asylum in Great Britain: a review of evidence](#)
 - iii. [The lived experiences of access to healthcare for people seeking and refused asylum](#)
- b. Our [April 2020 submission to the Home Affairs Select Committee](#), which includes a recommendation that the Government take action to prevent data-sharing between the NHS and the Home Office for the purposes of immigration enforcement so that migrants are not deterred from accessing healthcare

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- c. Our [July 2020 response to the Women and Equalities Committee's sub-inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on ethnic minorities](#), which includes the recommendations that the Government should:
- i. Improve the quality of data collection and analysis on access, experience and outcomes from health service users by protected characteristics by mandating ethnicity data collection and recording as part of routine data collection systems. To support this, the NHS should ensure that its data dictionary reflects the 2021 census ethnicity categories, particularly the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller categories.
 - ii. Address remaining barriers that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups face in registering with GPs, including by ensuring consideration of access to services and appointments for digitally excluded populations in all Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections.
- d. Our [November 2020 response to the CRED call for evidence](#), which includes the recommendations that the Government should:
- i. Address remaining barriers that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups face in registering with GPs, including by ensuring consideration of access to services and appointments for digitally excluded populations in all Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections.
 - ii. Ensure that the NHS data dictionary is updated to reflect the 2021 Census ethnicity categories, particularly Gypsy, Roma and Traveller categories.
- e. Our [November 2020 section 31 assessment of the Home Office's hostile environment policies](#), which looks at barriers that some groups face in accessing healthcare. Our recommendations in that document are very broad, covering the actions that, under the PSED, the Home Office should have taken to ensure that Black members of the Windrush generation were not, advertently or inadvertently, affected by the hostile environment policies. But the hostile environment policies that we looked at included policies that made it harder for some migrant groups to access NHS services free of charge.

We also have a section of our website where you can find further information about [the barriers people seeking asylum face when accessing healthcare](#).

Internal Review

If you are unhappy with our response and wish to request an internal review please write to the Information Governance Team within 40 days of receiving this letter setting out your reasons at:

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Email: foi@equalityhumanrights.com

During the independent review the handling of your request will be reassessed by EHRC staff afresh.

If following the review you are not content with the outcome you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at:

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

Generally the ICO will not provide a decision until you have exhausted the review process within the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

We will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance team

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