

24 April 2024

Immigration Enforcement Checking and Advice Service (IECAS)

The Home Office provides phone services, such as the Immigration Enforcement Checking and Advice Service (IECAS), which Trusts can call to get information on a patient's immigration status to determine whether or not they need to be charged.

1. Can you tell me whether the Trust carries out immigration checks using any service/method, such as:

- IECAS No
- The Status Verification and Enquiries Checking (SVEC) service Yes
- A local immigration officer No, not since 2022
- Any other service/method Yes, UKVI Sharecode Check

2. If any of the above or other services are used, please provide the following:

How many status checks were made for each of the following years – 2022, 2023 & 2024 (to date?)

a) By year

b) By service (IECAS/SVEC/ local immigration officer/etc.)

Year	Number of Checks	Type of Service
2022	3	Immigration Officer
2023	11	SVEC
2024	14	SVEC

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust also uses the UKVI Sharecode checking service. However, it would be an extensive manual exercise to examine each case to confirm this service was used, as it is not recorded.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.