

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.18.589
Date Received: 01.06.2018

***Note to Applicant:** As of 1 April 2017, North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEP) and South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) merged to form one new organisation known as Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT).

Information Requested:

1. Please confirm or deny whether, in the six months between December 2017 and May 2018 (inclusive), the Trust made any applications to the Home Office for Tier 2 (General) Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) for doctors to work in the trust.

We have made two applications for restricted CoS's since December 17 but they were for the same applicant as the initial application was refused so we re-applied and were then refused again.

2. Please indicate how many such applications the trust made in the following months:
 - a. December 2017
 - b. January 2018
 - c. February 2018
 - d. March 2018 One restricted CoS for an FY level doctor
 - e. April 2018 One restricted CoS for an FY level doctor
 - f. May 2018

3. Please indicate how many applications to the Home Office for Tier 2 (General) Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) for doctors to work in the trust were refused in the following months:
 - a. December 2017
 - b. January 2018
 - c. February 2018
 - d. March 2018
 - e. April 2018 One restricted CoS refused
 - f. May 2018 One restricted CoS refused (reapplied from previous month)

4. Please indicate what the financial cost to the trust was in the six months between December 2017 and May 2018 (inclusive) for recruiting doctors from outside the EEA whose applications for visas were subsequently refused. (If an exact figure is not available, please provide an estimate of the total or the typical cost involved in recruiting a doctor from outside the EEA and applying for a Tier 2 visa. Please include costs of staff time, administrative fees, agency fees, and any other associated costs.)

The post that the doctor would have covered was filled with a fixed-term NHS locum so no additional cost to Trust. The department have now had to staff their team in a different way and have now decided not to recruit a doctor into this role as it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract doctors.