

Trust Headquarters  
Russells Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

Date: 29/05/2013

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/011445**

With reference to your FOI request that was received on 30/04/2013 in connection with 'Patient led assessors'.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed.

Further information about your rights is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner**

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Fax: 01625 524510  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Manager  
Room 34a, First Floor, Esk House, Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, DY1 2HQ  
Email: [FOI@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@dgh.nhs.uk)

**Please find the responses to your request, in turn, below.**

**Can you please inform me of the numbers of people selected to act as Patient Led Assessors had a disability**

We did not ask this specific question on our application form. We did ask whether assessors had any mobility or sensory impairments that they may require support with on the day – two of the successful assessors stated they had mobility impairments.

**How many of the 20 selected had a visual impairment.**

See above for details about the question asked on the application form. None of the successful assessors stated that they had sensory impairments.

**Did the selection process include a criteria whereby disabled people could be treated more favourably in order to achieve positive discrimination and promote equal opportunity under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.**

The selection process did not seek to include or exclude applicants based on disability. The process sought to broadly reflect our patient population across the demographics of age, gender and ethnicity as this is the most robust data available from our Patient Administration System. Questions were asked on the application form around mobility or sensory impairments to ensure that appropriate assistance could be put in place for successful applicants.

Forty four applications were received, these were then split into age categories and randomly selected against the numbers required as dictated by the demographics as being representative. Representation against gender and ethnicity was then also checked against the discharge demographics.

**If the process was simply down to a matter of age than I believe that to be direct discrimination. Did the selection process simply come down to a matter of age and if so why?**

See response above.

Additional information: the Trust is committed to making improvements for disabled people accessing our services. We have held a Patient Panel to look at accessibility issues and are also working with Dudley Deaf Group. We plan to work with patients with visual impairments next to understand any issues they may encounter.