Our Campaign was shocked to read of the use of the Experian database in two articles in the HSJ and the Guardian (October 2019) Under the cover of finding ‘non-discriminatory’ ways of checking which patients are not eligible for free-at-the-point-of-use NHS care, Lewisham and Greenwich Trust have used the database to use personal credit checking company Experian to process mass batches of patients seeking treatment. NHSI had begun to extend this to 50 other trusts without checking the legality, let alone morality, of this policy In an email to the 51 trusts, NHSI explain the aim is ‘to refine … a system that can conduct bulk residency checks on all admissions and referrals in secondary care which can quickly identify the most chargeable patients.’

Experian first developed this data processing system in partnership with Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust at least as far back as 2015. Experian assume that patients having a credit history in England are resident in the UK and entitled to NHS care without charges. It shares the information with the trusts who concentrate their invoicing on those without credit history.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/sep/30/nhs-body-criticised-over-experian-patient-checks-scheme>

<https://www.hsj.co.uk/policy-and-regulation/revealed-mass-use-of-credit-check-firm-to-find-nhs-patients-to-charge/7026012.article>

**Lewisham and Greenwich Trust has told us it will shortly announce an independent inquiry into this whole area.** It has indicated that the Save Lewisham Hospital campaign should be involved in this. We are meeting them shortly and have already discussed proposing Terms of Reference to them.

We have been handing out a letter to staff for the last few weeks at shift changes. The letter/leaflet is written by two nurses from our campaign, about the whole issue of charging, They can be found on the KONP website or here <http://www.savelewishamhospital.com/migrant-nhs-charges/>

We will be updating the website very shortly on the Experian issue.