

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-447

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 14th November 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 28th October 2019 (received into our office 29th October) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding public health funerals.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 Does your NHS Trust organise, pay for and carry out public health funerals for people who die in the Trust's care and who don't have the financial means or family/friends to arrange it?

A1 Yes

Q2 If no, which local council you refer public health funeral deaths to?

A2 Not applicable

Q3 If yes, please supply the following information (please see the attached spreadsheet I have put together to help you collate the data):

a) How many public health funerals has your NHS Trust carried out each year for these financial years: 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/2019?

b) Please state, out of the above figures, how many of those people were male and how many of those men had next of kin and how many of those men did not have next of kin?

c) Please state, out of the above figures, how many of those people were female and how many of those women had next of kin and how many of those women did not have next of kin?

d) Please state, out of the above figures, how many of those people were aged under 18, aged 18-59 or aged 60+

e) Please state, out of the above figures, how many of those people were cremated, how many were buried in a grave of their own and how many were buried in a shared or communal grave (if that's applicable).

f) Please state, the net cost to the NHS Trust for all financial years:

- 2014/15

- 2015/16
- 2016/17
- 2017/18
- 2018/2019?

A3 Please see below:

<p>a) How many public health funerals has your NHS Trust carried out each year for these financial years: 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/2019?</p>	<p>2014/15 = 15 2015/16 = I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding cost of public health funerals, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: <i>information reasonably accessible by other means</i>. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/2019_2020.aspx (FOI ref 174-1819 –June 1819)</p> <p>2016/17 = as above 2017/18 = as above 2018/2019 =21</p>
<p>b) Please state, out of the above figures, how many of those people were male and how many of those men had next of kin and how many of those men did not have next of kin?</p>	<p>2014/15 information not held 2016/17 = <10 total men (<5 men no next of kin, <5 men with next of kin). 2017/18 = 11 total men (<10 men no next of kin, <5 men with next of kin). 2018/19 =17 total men (11 men no next kin, 6 men with next of kin)</p> <p>(We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. <i>Personal information</i>. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers) <i>This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.</i></p>
<p>c) Please state, out of the above figures, how many of those people were female and how many of those women had next of kin and how</p>	<p>2014/15 = information not held 2016/17 = <5 total women (<5 no next to kin, <5 with next of kin).</p>

<p>many of those women did not have next of kin?</p>	<p>2017/18 = <5 total women (<5 no next of kin, <5 with next of kin) 2018/19 = <5 total women (<5 no next of kin, <5 with next of kin)</p> <p>(We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. <i>Personal information</i>. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers) <i>This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.</i></p>
<p>d) Please state, out of the above figures, how many of those people were aged under 18, aged 18-59 or aged 60+</p>	<p>2014/15 = information not held 2016/17 = <10 were 60+ and <5 were aged 18-59. 2017/18 = 14 were 60+ and <5 was aged 18-59 2018/19 = 19 were aged 60+ and <5 were aged 18-59.</p> <p>(We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. <i>Personal information</i>. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers) <i>This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.</i></p>
<p>e) Please state, out of the above figures, how many of those people were cremated, how many were buried in a grave of their own and how many were buried in a shared or communal grave (if that's applicable).</p>	<p>2014/15 = all cremated 2016/17 = all cremated 2017/18 = all cremated 2018/19 = all cremated</p>
<p>f) Please state, the net cost to the NHS Trust for all financial years:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014/15 	<p>Information not held</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015/16 	<p>= I can confirm that the Trust holds information</p>

	regarding cost of public health funerals, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: <i>information reasonably accessible by other means</i> . This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/2019_2020.aspx (FOI ref 174-1819 –June 1819)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2016/17	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2017/18	As above
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2018/2019	£19,665

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

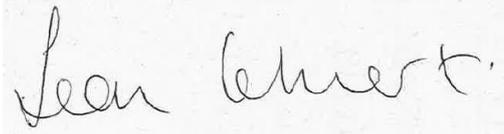
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager