



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-446

Date: 14th January 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 19th January 2021 (sent to our communications team and received into our office 11th January) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid-19.

On our acknowledgment we advised you that all FOI requests should be sent to: foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in your questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UJNM) 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 I am getting more confused and more concerned about the current Covid - 19 figures. And I would like more clarity.

Under the Freedom of Information act 2000, I would like you to provide me with the following information.

How many people have actually died of Covid 19 ALONE in your Hospital? As in, those who have died purely of Covid 19, and not with ANY other underlying, factors, symptoms or even opinions.

Figures are published daily, but these are all deaths, "within 28 days of a positive Covid test", so they could have died of other causes.

I would like to know the exact figure, from 1st of February 2020, to 31st of December 2020, (or from 1/2/20 to the latest date available) of people who have died, from nothing else, but Covid 19.

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above. You may find further information at the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath>

*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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

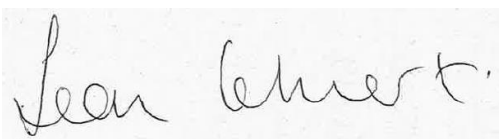
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

