



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-185

Date: 24th July 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 12th June 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Functional Neurological Disorder Diagnoses

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 Statistics

- 1. The number of unique patients that have received a diagnosis of Functional Neurological Disorder in total.**
- 2. The same as above but since 2020 (the start of the tax year to the end of this tax year)**
- 3. The total number of unique outpatients seen during the same four year time period**

If your Trust has a neurology service or department:

- 4. If applicable, the total number of outpatients seen for neurology during the same four year time period since 2020.**

A1 We don't put FND as an outcome on the patient system, therefore all patient notes would need to be checked- section 12 exemption as detailed below;

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 questions 1, 2 and 3 is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all 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 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*

A4: Please note this is the total “New” and “Follow-up” Attendances for the period 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2024.

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Grand Total
400 - Neurology	43,273	44,884	49,077	47,694	184,928

Q2 Reporting

Note: 1a and 2a only apply if the answers to answers 1 or 2 respectively, are negative. I would also be grateful for yes/no answers where applicable.

1. Does the Trust routinely record outpatient diagnoses of Functional Neurological Disorder onto their electronic recording system (which can later be queried electronically to ascertain this number)?
 - a. If the above answer is no, then does the Trust routinely record this information for outpatients diagnosed with any other neurological condition(s) such as stroke (any kind)?
2. Does the Trust routinely report the number of outpatient diagnoses of Functional Neurological Disorder to any other body (including NHS England, Government or any other third party) not including third parties which store or manage data on the trust’s behalf such as the Trust’s IT firm. If so, to whom?
 - a. If the above answer is no, then does the Trust routinely report this information for any other neurological condition(s) such as stroke?

A2 As answer 1

Q3 Treatment

The below are only applicable if your Trust has a rehabilitation, reablement or neurology service the use of “treatment” refers to physiotherapy, psychology, orthosis, orthotics, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, vocational therapy, rehabilitation, holistic services, musculoskeletal injections and/or any other physical intervention. Advice or the provision of information including leaflets, booklets and web links/online content I have not classed as treatment for the purposes of these questions. If the only treatment offered is medication then also please state this.

1. Does the Trust routinely provide inpatient treatment for FND?
2. Does the Trust routinely provide outpatient treatment for FND?
3. Are these provided only within the local commissioning area or a nationwide service?

For clarification, the use of “unique” above refers to patients that have received the same diagnosis twice only being counted once

A3 As answer 1

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

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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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records