



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-205

Date: 18th September 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 28th August 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Hospital acquired Covid-19 infections

On 2nd September 2020 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:
Q2 (b) are you asking for confirmed sickness cases only or all suspected cases, including isolation and shielding too?

On the same day you replied via email with:

"Thanks for getting in contact. In regards to the clarification: the question refers to all suspected cases, including isolation and shielding too

Please let me know if there are any further clarifications needed"

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 I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

For all the information below please could you provide data from between the dates 01/03/2020 to 01/08/2020, and where possible, could you please provide the figures for each individual month. An Excel form has been included for this information to be easily filed.

1. Have records of Covid-19 infections in patients which were hospital acquired been kept? If so:

- a) How many Covid-19 infections in patients were hospital acquired?
- b) Of those who acquired Covid-19 while in hospital, how many died?
- c) What was the total number of Covid-19 deaths in hospital?

2. Have records been kept of members of staff who contracted Covid-19? If so:

- a) How many members of staff contracted Covid-19?
- b) How many members of staff were absent from work due to Covid-19?
- c) How many members of staff died due to Covid-19?

3. What is the total number of Covid-19 infections recorded in hospital?

4. What is the procedure for when a patient is diagnosed with Covid-19 outside a Covid-19 ward?

- a) Has this procedure remained the same throughout the time period set out above?

5. What is the procedure for when a member of staff is diagnosed with Covid-19?

a) Has this procedure remained the same throughout the time period set out above?

A1 We are unable to provide some of 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. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers.

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

In addition:

I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding question 2(c), but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: FOI ref 093-2021- June 2020/21.

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

NOTE:

- When we talk about **Hospital acquired cases** – we are talking about COVID-19 positive patients who were an inpatient for a minimum of 15 days prior to testing positive for COVID-19 as per the NHS E/I classifications of hospital acquired COVID-19 infections.
- When we talk about **COVID related deaths** – we are talking about those patients who died within 30 days of testing positive for COVID-19 – this reporting process is in line with reporting protocols for other PHE official statistical publications covering all-cause mortality reporting for healthcare associate infections.

We can only answer those questions with the numbers of deaths which we know occurred within 30 days of testing positive, to determine if COVID-19 was the recorded cause of death would require all of the patient notes/death certificates to be requested for a case by case review. (Section 12 exemption: *cost of compliance excessive*)

With regard to how many COVID-19 infection in patients were hospital acquired and of those who acquired COVID-19 whilst in hospital how many died, we are unable to answer this with 100% accuracy and therefore unable to provide this information. However, we have provided all of the data which is available in the table attached.

*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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<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.

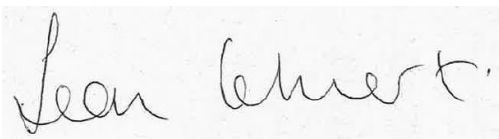
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager