



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-406

Date: 11th January 2021

Email foi@uhnms.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 17th December 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid-19.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNMS) 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 ask how many actual deaths there been in the Trust due directly to Covid19 and deaths with Covid19 (where there have been pre-existing conditions) from February until most recently, i.e. end of November.

Would it be possible for you to say what evidence there is that identified Covid19 was included on the death certificates? i.e. if a post mortem was carried out and Covid identified.

A1 For the period of March 2020 until end of November 2020 there was a total number 697 deaths where Covid was identified. We are unable to provide the information you require for post mortem results 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 as being <10 who had post mortem results for Covid-19.

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

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

UHNMS 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.

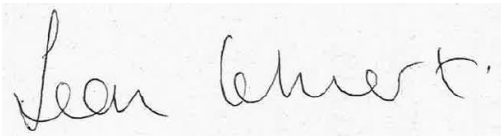
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager