



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-233

Date: 7th October 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 17th September 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding the resuscitation committee.

UHNM received this identical request from yourself on 11th February 2020, please see below transcript of all communications we have sent to you regarding this request

On 11th February 2020 we contacted you via email as your request referenced **University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust** and we advise you of the following:

As of 31st October 2014 University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust (UHNS) ceased to exist. As of 1st November 2014 Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital (Stafford) became known as University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM)

You replied via email the same day with:

"Thank you for your email. My apologies for the misunderstanding. I have corrected the error below and re-addressed the request to the University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust."

On 21st February 2020 we contacted you via email as we required further clarification on question 3(d) we needed a timeframe in order to collate the information.

On 17th September 2020 you re-sent this identical request to UHNM with the clarification we have asked for outstanding and unanswered.

On 18th September 2020 we contacted you via email again asking you to supply the following clarification:

Please confirm for question 3(d), a timeframe in order to collate the information.

On 23rd September 2020 you replied via email with the following:

"Thank you for raising your question again. My apologies for not responding previously I must have missed your email."

Regarding Q3d, we would like the data to cover 2018-2019. If you foresee any issues in gathering data for a full year then please stipulate a smaller period (months/ weeks) that we can then use to infer an estimate".

I can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because some of the information requested in questions 3(d) and 5 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*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 would like to obtain information related to the management of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) and in-hospital cardiac arrest (IHCA) and the approach to targeted temperature management (TTM) in patients admitted to University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust following sudden cardiac arrest.

1) Can you please describe what guidelines are currently used in NHS Acute Trust Name for the management of OHCA and IHCA? Please attach a copy of Trust's protocols for the management of OHCA.

A1 The guidelines we follow in UHNM are Resus Council ALS 2015; this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the following public website at the following link:
<https://www.resus.org.uk/resuscitation-guidelines/>

Q2 Has University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust incorporated the European Resuscitation Council Guidelines for Resuscitation 2015 into Trust's post cardiac arrest care protocols?

A2 Resuscitation Council Guidelines for Resuscitation (RCUK) guidelines were adapted from the ERC guidelines of 2015. Please refer to the attached policy (C09-section 6 – Education and training, 6.1 – ALS and ERC)

Q3 Can you please confirm if TTM is incorporated as part of the OHCA management in University University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust?

If yes, can you please confirm?

a. what is the target temperature?

- b. what method or equipment is currently used to ensure that the target temperature is achieved and maintained?
- c. which staff members are currently responsible for delivering TTM as part of OHCA management?
- d. What proportion of OHCA that arrive at University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust that receive TTM

A3 Please see below:

| | |
|---|--|
| a. What is the target temperature? | The target would be set for individual patients but between 32-36 degrees Celsius. |
| b. What method or equipment is currently used to ensure that the target temperature is achieved and maintained? | Arctic Sun |
| c. Which staff members are currently responsible for delivering TTM as part of OHCA management? | Both medical and nursing staff are involved in this |
| d. What proportion of OHCA that arrive at University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust that receive TTM | Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above |

Q4 Can you confirm whether TTM is part of the OHCA training curriculum for the members of the resuscitation and advanced life support team and critical care team at University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust? Please include any relevant training materials and checklist currently in use.

A4 When undertaking an ALS certificate, targeted temperature management is covered both in teaching and the manual issued to all candidates. However, Critical Care staff do not attend ALS, they attend an ALS profile identified in the UHNM policy as suitable approved ALS training on a yearly basis. TTM is always spoken about in the hospital setting, not pre hospital.

Training material is not the property of UHNM; however, this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the following public website at the following link:

<https://www.resus.org.uk/resuscitation-guidelines/>

Q5 Please provide data on outcomes for patients who had suffered OHCA and have been treated in University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust. Can you please tell us the number of patients who suffered OHCA and were admitted to University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust for the period from 2014 to 2019 (please include yearly breakdown where available) that:

- a. have resulted in a poor outcome, such as severe neurological disability, persistent vegetative state or death (CPC scores 3, 4, or 5);
- b. have been discharged with a good neurological outcome (CPC 1 or 2).

A5 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. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers, Please see below:

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

| | number | number alive | number RIP | unknown |
|------|--------|-----------------|---------------|---------|
| 2014 | 157 | 36 | 84 | 37 |
| 2015 | 163 | 39 | 113 | 11 |
| 2016 | 238 | 40 | 197 | 0 |
| 2017 | 268 | 61 | 204 | <5 |
| 2018 | 269 | 63 | 206 | 0 |
| 2019 | 247 | 94 | 153 | 0 |

1. These are all the cases delivered to us in a state of cardiac arrest regardless of cause, i.e. it could be the sole medical complaint, but could be secondary to traumatic injury/asphyxia/MI etc. It is not possible to separate these into discrete cohorts- **section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.**
2. We no longer routinely record the neurological status at discharge in our returns to the ambulance service so we cannot comment on their status beyond Alive or RIP.
3. Outcome Unknown relates to patients who are generally alone/unknown and unresponsive at the time of pick up and had no means of identification.

*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.

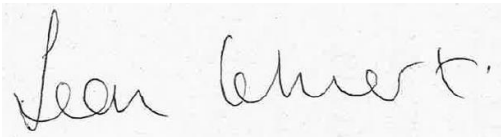
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security and Protection Manager