



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-443

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (sent to our communications team) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding deaths.

On our acknowledgment we advised you to send all FOI requests to: [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.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 question 2 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health/death records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health/death 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/death 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 request the following information and if I could have the information for Stoke and Stafford hospitals separately that would be much appreciated;**

**Total hospital deaths each month for the calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020**

A1 The below table are all the discharges for the calendar years 2018, 19 & 20 where the discharge destination is 79 - Deaths including Still Births. This is the field we use to identify patients who have died within the hospital.

	County			Royal Stoke		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Jan	58	55	48	330	282	260
Feb	38	53	36	291	227	216
Mar	53	24	32	290	240	235
Apr	40	46	70	228	208	296
May	29	44	34	237	227	247

Jun	33	32	30	238	206	196
Jul	27	24	30	223	222	170
Aug	29	26	24	204	208	185
Sep	33	31	16	217	193	193
Oct	36	27	17	216	222	258
Nov	28	33	49	234	257	366
Dec	25	38	67	224	254	388
Total	429	433	453	2932	2746	3010

**Q2 Broad analysis of causes of death by month by year. So however you group deaths in your analysis such as heart failure, kidney failure, influenza, cancer, COVID 19, etc.**

A2 We do not record cause/reason of death on our reporting system "Medway"; we would have to manually check/review all the records of the deceased patients to ascertain the reason/cause of death. Therefore the Trust is placing a Section 12 exemption as detailed above, however you may find the following link helpful:

<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.***

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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.uhn.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.

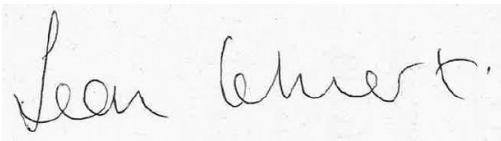
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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