

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-47

Date: 15th June 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Team

I am writing in response to your emails dated 21st May 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding tests and procedures

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

On the same day we contacted all three of you to inform you that under section 12 of the FOI Act we would be aggregating your three requests.

The section 12 exemption states:

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from:

- The same person or
- People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.

We also contacted you via email to pause all three requests for a timeframe in order to collate the information

On the same day you replied via email for with following clarifications for requests #1 and #2:

Request #1, *"Thank you for your response, I do apologise for lack of info.*

An average week from last year would be great as this year's numbers I'm sure are not the norm. If this is not possible annual numbers will be fine".

Request #2 “Thank you for your email, can we please have information on the past year?”

On 28th May 2020 you replied via email for request #3

Request #3 –“If possible could we have the information for the year of 2019... if its easier to give us an avg for a month or week and we can calculate from there that is ok.”

On 29th May 2020 we contacted you via email as we required further clarification on **request #3**, we asked; require clarification on what you are classing as:

- Number of annual colonoscopy procedures
- Number of annual Gastroscopy procedures

Are these specific procedure codes? If so, please can you supply the ICD10 codes?

As of 15th June 2020 our request for clarification for request number 3 has not been responded to , therefore in order to not delay requests numbers 1 and 2 we are unable to proceed with request number 3.

Answer for Request #2

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 questions 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

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.

Request #1

Q1 We are looking to establish the average number of tests performed each week within the following clinical departments:

Neurophysiology -

- **Number of NCS tests undertaken each week**
- **Number of EMG tests undertaken each week**
- **Number of EEG tests undertaken each week**
- **Number of PSG tests undertaken each week**

- Number of VEP tests undertaken each week
- Number of BAEP tests undertaken each week
- Number of SEP tests undertaken each week
- Number of MEP tests undertaken each week

We appreciate that these maybe rough average numbers and Pre Covid-19 due to reduced clinic capacity as a result of dealing with the current epidemic.

A1 Please see below:

Neurophysiology	
• Number of NCS tests undertaken each week	Total = 1146
• Number of EMG tests undertaken each week	Total = 2130
• Number of EEG tests undertaken each week Which includes sleep depts, sedations, IP's, Ambulatory EEG	Total = 2759
• Number of PSG tests undertaken each week - Not undertaken by Neurophysiology undertaken by sleep clinic (Respiratory Dept).	Pre Covid it was 4 PSGs a week
• Evoked Potential: -	The tests below come under Evoked potential: 219 (total for all x3 <u>tests below</u>) we are unable to split down for this level of detail.
Number of VEP tests undertaken each week – <u>see above</u> Number of BAEP tests undertaken each week Number of SEP tests undertaken each week	
• Number of MEP tests undertaken each week:	Not applicable as Clinical Neurophysiology team no longer provide this service

Request #2

Q1 We are looking to establish the average number of tests performed each week within the following Theatres & Critical Care:

- Percentage of general anaesthetic patients that use a laryngeal mask in general theatres
- Percentage of general anaesthetic patients that use a laryngeal mask in day theatre
- Percentage of general anaesthetic patients that use an ET tube in general theatres
- Percentage of general anaesthetic patients that use an ET tube in day theatres
- Number of general anaesthetics per week
- Annual single lung ventilation
- Annual BAL/BW (Bronchial lavage & Bronchial wash)

A1 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

Request #3

Q1 Urology/GI

- Number of ERPC suites
- Number of annual colonoscopy procedures
- Number of annual Gastroscopy procedures

Cardiology

- Number of resting ECG's undertaken per week
- Number of ECHO's undertaken per week
- Number of stress tests undertaken per week
- Number of holter monitors undertaken per week

A1 UHNM is unable to answer the above as our request for clarification (29/05/2020) has been unanswered, therefore this request is closed. We will re-open if the applicant contacts us again with the clarification requested above.

*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.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.

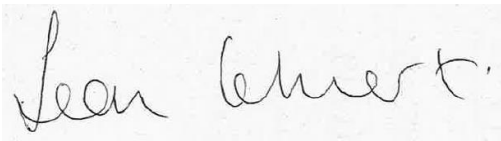
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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