

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-401

Date: 3rd February 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your emails dated 15th December 2020 – one sent to our Communications team the other to the FOI email address with two different names, that identify you as the sender of both requests requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding covid-19.

On our acknowledgment we advised you of the following:

UHNM will be responding once to your two identical requests. Note that all FOI requests should be sent to the following email address to ensure prompt response. foi@uhnm.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 questions 2 and 3 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.

**Q1 Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request the following information please:
The total number of inpatients in the Royal Stoke University Hospital of North Midlands that have died directly from Covid19 from March 2020 to November 2020.**

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding covid-19, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the NHS England public website at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/>
<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Q2 Also, the total number of the above aforementioned patients that died directly from Covid19 who had underlying health conditions please?

A2 As answer 1

Q3 Finally, what is the average age of patients that have died directly from Covid19 from March 2020 to November 2020 in the Royal Stoke University Hospital please?

A3 As answer 1

*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.



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Yours,

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager