

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-265

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 27th August 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13th August 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding curative intent surgical resections. Note that UHNM has received this request twice from you, but will be responding once.

On the same day we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

Q1 - How many curative intent surgical resections for pancreatic cancer did your centre carry out in 2019? – We are unable to find any OPCS coding for the procedure “curative intent surgical resections”. We require you to clarify what you are classing as “curative intent surgical resections”.

Q3 - After pancreatic cancer surgery at your centre what number of patients died within 30 days in 2019? – is this question relating to the surgery mentioned above? Or any types of pancreatic cancer surgery? We would need you to advise what you are classing as “pancreatic cancer surgery” as surgery to treatment cancer is not specific to cancer. Also we need to understand if you are is after those patients who died from the surgery within 30 days or just unfortunately died within 30 days following surgery? We also need to understand what the cohort of patients is? Are you after those patients who were discharged and then subsequently died within 30 days of having surgery?

You replied via email with:

‘My answers are below in blue

Q1 - How many curative intent surgical resections for pancreatic cancer did your centre carry out in 2019? – We are unable to find any OPCS coding for the procedure “curative intent surgical resections”. We require you to clarify what you are classing as “curative intent surgical resections”. **This means surgery to remove all malignant (cancerous) tissue another way of wording this might be... how many times did your centre remove all or partial parts of organs when trying to treat pancreatic cancer? (i hope this helps - let me know if it doesn't)**

Q3 - After pancreatic cancer surgery at your centre what number of patients died within 30 days in 2019? – is this question relating to the surgery mentioned above? **Yes** or any types of pancreatic cancer surgery? **No** All Surgery for pancreatic surgery always involves surgery. We would need you to advise what you are classing as “pancreatic cancer surgery” as surgery to treatment cancer is not specific to cancer. **Someone who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has had surgery of any kind to combat it.** Also we need to understand if you are is after those patients who died from the surgery within 30 days or just unfortunately died within 30 days following surgery? **Any death of a patient who underwent pancreatic cancer surgery of any kind that then died either as a direct result of cancer or of any other ailment that is linked with pancreatic cancer such as anorexia within 30 days of that prior surgery.** We also need to understand what the cohort of patients is? **Are you after those patients who were discharged and then subsequently died within 30days of having**

surgery? We would like patients who were still patients of the centre and also those patients who had been discharged... so ALL patients’.

On 16th August 2021 we contacted you via email as we required further clarification:

Q4 Do you mean the Trust as a whole or just for pancreatic cancer

On 20th August 2021 you replied via email with:

‘For clarification: - What is the number of people that your pancreatic cancer service serves?’

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 1-3 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 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 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 question 4 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 How many curative intent surgical resections for pancreatic cancer did your centre carry out in 2019?

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

Q2 With regards to question 1 - How many of those patients received adjuvant chemotherapy?

A2 As answer 1

Q3 After surgery at your centre what number of patients died within 30 days in 2019?

A3 As answer 1

Q4 What is the number of population that your service serves?

A4 Total Population = 1,658,000

*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.

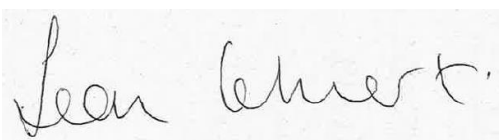
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

