



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-170

Date: 23rd September 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 26th June 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding weight management for people affected by Severe Mental Illness.

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.

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 We are carrying out research into weight management for people affected by Severe Mental Illness.

We are asking for information about the Tier 4 Weight Management Services you provide.

Please could we see?

A full copy of referral criteria for this service, including inclusion and exclusion criteria

A1 We follow NICE guidance. So, BMI >40 or BMI > 35 with weight related comorbidities.

Q2 How many referrals this service has received in each year since 2017

A2 To enable use to identify bariatric referrals we have had to look for “first booked appointments” into specific clinics, below are the clinics used

- Bariatric-N
- Bariatric-NNVC
- Bariatric-NCNS
- Bariatric-NNVCCO
- Bariatric-NNCO
- Bariatric-NNVCCO
- Bariatric-NNCH

Calendar Year	Number of Referrals
2017	371
2018	420
2019	521
2020	320
2021	99
2022	36
Grand Total	1767

Q3 How many of the patients referred have been treated with a surgical procedure?

A3 To identify if a patient has had a procedure we would look to see if any of the 1767 patients have had a IP admission under the TFC 106-Upper GI and if they have any OPCS clinical coding applied to their Careflow IP record, however OPCS coding is not just used to identify “surgical” procedures, therefore without checking every record to ascertain if the procedure was surgical or not we cannot with 100% accuracy say if the patient was treated with a surgical procedure.

Out of the 1767 patients from Q1, **326 patients** have had an IP stay under the TFC 106-Upper GI and had OPCS clinical coding applied to their IP record. To ascertain if this OPCS clinical coding relates to a surgical procedure we would need to check every record- see section12 exemption detailed below

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 this question 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 your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

Q4 How many of the patients who were a) referred to the service and b) treated with a surgical procedure, have a diagnosis of Severe Mental Illness. This information should be available from Hospital Episode Statistics if you do not hold it elsewhere. For the purposes of this study, we define serious mental illness by the ICD 10 codes below:•

- F20-29
- F30-31
- F32.3
- F60-61

A4 Out of the 326 patients from Q3 there are 11 patients who have the above stated ICD10 clinical coding applied to their IP stay.

Q5 How many of the patients who were a) referred to the service and b) treated with a surgical procedure, have a diagnosis of Learning Disability?

This information should be available from Hospital Episode Statistics if you do not hold it elsewhere. For the purposes of this study, we define serious mental illness by the ICD 10 codes F70-79

A5 Out of the 326 patients from Q3 there are 0 patients who have the above stated ICD10 clinical coding applied to their IP stay.

*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,



Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection/ Data Protection Officer