



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

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

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-100

Date: 14th June 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 26th May 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding falls.

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 26th May 2022 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:
Do you mean attended the ED department? Or actually admitted to a hospital bed as an inpatient?

On the same day you replied via email with: *'For both inpatient and ED attendance please.'*

On 6th June 2022 we contacted you again as we required further clarification as your answer above was not clear

On 8th June 2022 Michael Bisley-Young (Managing Director) replied via email with:

'We would like to know the people who attended A+E and then was discharged in the same day.'



As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UJNM) 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.

Please note our responses reflect your clarification above:

Q1 I'd be very grateful if you could provide me with the following information dated over the past year:

Number of patients admitted due to a fall

A1 See below
ED Attendances:-

To Note - To identify patients who have attended ED due to a fall we have used where the field "ECDS Chief Complaint" = "Falls / unsteady on feet".

For the period Apr 21-Mar 22 this has identified **3,598 patients** who have the ECDS Chief Complaint = Falls / unsteady on feet coded on their ED record.

Admissions to a hospital bed:-

We do not record on Careflow the reason for the admission to hospital, however we do record on the ED attendance if a patient is discharged from ED and admitted to a hospital ward, therefore using this criteria we have identified **2,182 patients** out of the 3,598 ED attendances who were discharged from ED and admitted to a ward within the hospital.

Q2 Number of patients admitted due to a fall because of a long lie (after being on the floor for over an hour)

A2 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 (manual audit of 3,598 patients). 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 if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

Q3 Number of patients admitted due to a fall and discharged the same day

A3 We have taken "same day" as being the time period of "00:00:01 to 23:59:59"

Out of the 3,598 patients who attended ED due to a fall there are 1,026 patients who attended and were discharged home from ED within the “same day”.

It is to be noted that if a patient was admitted at 11:30pm on 01/01/2022 and was discharged back home at 12.30am on 02/01/2022 this patient would not be included as the period they were in the ED department ran over 2 days, even though they might have only been in the department for 1 hour.

Q4 Number of patients currently in hospital due to a fall and awaiting discharge but no care in place to do so

A4 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 (manual audit of 3,598 patients). 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 if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

Q5 Number of patients admitted due to a social care basis (unable to cope, no carer, self-neglect, no family)

A5 See below:
ED Attendances:-

To Note: To identify patients who have attended ED due to a “social care basis” we have used where the field “ECDS Chief Complaint” = “Social problem (medically well)”.

For the period Apr 21-Mar 22 this has identified 111 patients who have the ECDS Chief Complaint = Social problem (medically well) coded on their ED record.

Admissions to a hospital bed:-

We do not record on Careflow the reason for the admission to hospital; however we do record on the ED attendance if a patient is discharged from ED and admitted to a hospital ward, therefore using this criteria we have identified that all the 111 ED attendances were admitted to a ward within the hospital.

*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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

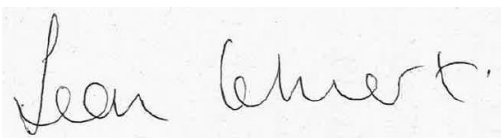
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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