

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-727

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

Date: 4th May 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 20th March 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding bariatrics.

On 23rd March we contacted you via email as 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 take 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.

We also required you to provide a time frame for the information to be collated.

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

On 29th March 2020 (received into our office 30th March 2020) you replied via email with the following: *"Thank you for requesting the clarification, please could I have the data over the calendar year of 2019, this time period would be much appreciated"*

On 30th March 2020 we contacted you again via email as we required further clarification on what you meant by "bariatric patient admissions" and "bariatric episodes admissions"?

On 2nd April 2020 you replied via email with the following: *"Thank you for taking the time to request a question Clarification"*

The clarification to the below : This questions relates to the total Number of bariatric patient admissions over 12 months patient admissions .i.e. time a single patient is admitted regardless of how many times over the year. Each time classes as one admission/episode. As equipment will need to be allocated/ sourced for each hospital visit.

Also noted that I did not clarify the time period for this information i.e. the year. Would it be possible for the calendar year of 2019 (1st Jan - 31st Dec 2019)

:How many bariatric patient/episodes admissions do you have per year?

I hope this response meets your needs, if not please do not hesitate to contact me once again”.

On 3rd April 2020 we contacted you via email as your clarification was insufficient as we needed to know you meant by a bariatric patient and a bariatric admission?

On 16th April 2020 you replied via email with the following:

“The WHO describes people who have a BMI greater than 30 as obese, and those having a BMI greater than 40 as severely obese (WHO 2000) other definitions of Bariatric include overweight by more than 100-200 (7-14 stone) pounds or body weight greater than 300 pounds (21stone)

For the purpose of the FOI request I would be interred in the number of patient admitted over 21 stone. And those greater than 40 stone. How many patients you have admitted in total per year of each of these groups in total between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2019.

Does this help clarify this information request?”

I can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual departmental/divisional records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all departmental/divisional 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 departmental/divisional 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. 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 If you can provide as much detail as possible please as this for a research project. If you could complete the below

Questions	Responses
Does the Trust have a contracted bariatric Supplier?	Yes/ No

If YES: Who is this Supplier (s)?	
Which year does this Contract Expire?	
What equipment is rented from this supplier and the maximum patient weights?	
Does the Trust own any bariatric Equipment?	Yes/ No
If YES: What type of equipment?	Hoists/ Bed frames/ Chairs /Commodes
How many of each do you own?	
How many bariatric patient/episodes admissions do you have per year?	
What is the average length of stay for these patients?	
What percentage of these are over 40 stone / 254Kg?	
What is the Trusts average total spend on equipment for bariatric patients per year?	

A1 Please see below:

Questions	Responses
Does the Trust have a contracted bariatric Supplier?	Yes
If YES: Who is this Supplier (s)?	First Call Mobility
Which year does this Contract Expire?	2020
What equipment is rented from this supplier and the maximum patient weights?	Beds 450kg Hoist 500kg Chairs 450kg Commodes 350kg

Does the Trust own any bariatric Equipment?	Yes
If YES: What type of equipment?	Hoists/ Bed frames/ Chairs /Commodes
How many of each do you own?	Section 12/14 exemptions as detailed above
How many bariatric patient/episodes admissions do you have per year?	Information not held
What is the average length of stay for these patients?	Information not held
What percentage of these are over 40 stone / 254Kg?	Information not held
What is the Trusts average total spend on equipment for bariatric patients per year?	£200K (time as clarified above = Jan 2019- Dec 2019)

*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.

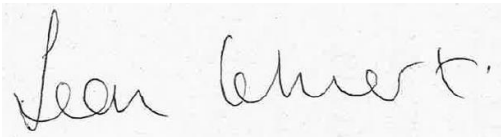
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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