

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-210

Date: 9th September 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 3rd September 2020 (received into our office 4th September) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding GP referrals

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act into the number of patients within your NHS Trust who have requested referrals / second opinions for an existing course of treatment.

I have detailed the request below:

1. How many patients asked their GP or consultant to be referred to another professional for an existing course of treatment in the following time periods?

Year	Number of patients who asked their GP	Number of patients who asked their Consultant
2020 (year to date)		
2019		
2018		
2018		

A1 Please see below:

Year	Number of patients who asked their GP	Number of patients who asked their Consultant
2020 (year to date)	Information not held on the number of patients who asked their GP for referrals, we advise you to contact the relevant GP surgeries	Information not held, as this is on an informal basis.
2019		
2018		
2018		

Q2 In how many cases was the request rejected in the following time periods?

Year	Number of requests rejected by GPs	Number of requests rejected by Consultants

2020 (year to date)		
2019		
2018		

A2 As answer 1

Q3 In how many cases did the treatment recommendation change because of the patient requesting a referral or second opinion in the following periods?

Year	Number of GP referral requests which resulted in treatment change	Number of Consultant referral requests which resulted in treatment change
2020 (year to date)		
2019		

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.

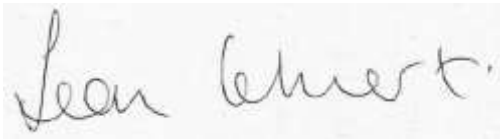
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager