

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-556

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

Date: 4th February 2025

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in response to your email dated 13th November 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Infectious Diseases.

Q1 I'm writing to make a freedom of information request for the number of deaths there have been on ward 117 infectious diseases over the past year please.

A1 At the Trust there were 14 patients who sadly RIP whilst staying on this ward in the last 12 months.

Q2 I would also like the number of deaths during the past 6 weeks on this ward

A2 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information. This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed*

Therefore, we can confirm there were <5 patients who sadly RIP whilst staying on this ward in the last 6 weeks (from the date the request was received).

Q3 If you can further this by including the causes of death that would be beneficial also. If ages can be included even better

A3 We do not record the reason for the patient's death on our patient administration system. This will be held either in the patients notes or on their death certificate, which would require a manual audit of the records.

We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format (ages of patients) as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information.*

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Q4 Could I also have the death rate of Covid patients that have died in your hospital during the past year

A4 We are unable to answer this as we are unable to identify patients who died from COVID. As previously mentioned, we do not record the reason for a person's death on our patient administration system.

Q5 I would also like the number of Covid deaths during the past 6 weeks from ward 117

A5 Please refer to A4.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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.

Yours,

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records
Data Protection Officer