



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-442

Date: 8th March 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 8th January 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid-19.

On the same day we contacted you via email as we required clarification on what you defined as the difference between SARS-COV2, not SARS-COV2?

On the same day you replied via email with the following clarification and amendment to your request: *“COVID19 is the notifiable disease, SARS-COV2 is the causative agent of COVID19, (as per the UK government's NOIDS information). As such, the requests are for information differentiated between COVID19 - the notifiable disease - and SARS-COV2 - the causative agent of COVID19.”*

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 your question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/death records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health/death 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/death 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

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 The number of confirmed SARS-COV2 cases in your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020;

A1 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above, however note: **ALL** new cases confirmed by UHNM whether they became admitted or not between those 2 dates was 3,585

We are counting COVID-19 deaths as per the national guidance. The figure, and a description of the definition we are using, are published daily and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

The link to the Trust level data is available in the daily spread sheet in the section titled 'COVID-19 all announced deaths'.

NHS England has the following below:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

Please note that we are providing these links under Section 21 of the FOI Act – 'Information reasonably accessible to the applicant via other means'.

Q2 The number of confirmed COVID19 cases in your Trust (the disease caused by SARS-COV2, not SARS-COV2) in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020

Amended:

The number of confirmed COVID19 cases in your Trust (the disease caused by SARS-COV2, not SARS-COV2 - the reponse should be COVID19 numbers and NOT SARS-COV2 numbers) in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020;

A2 As answer 1

Q3 The number of deaths with SARS-COV2 present in your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020

A3 The number of Covid-19 deaths in the Trust for this period is 927

Q4 The number of deaths with COVID19 (the disease caused by SARS-COV2, not SARS-COV2) present in your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020

Amended:

The number of deaths with COVID19 (the disease caused by SARS-COV2, not SARS-COV2 - the reponse should be COVID19 numbers and NOT SARS-COV2 numbers) present in your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020;

A4 As answer 1

Q5 The number of deaths caused by SARS-COV2 in your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020

A5 As answer 1

Q6 The number of deaths caused by COVID19 (the disease caused by SARS-COV2, not SARS-COV2) in your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020

Amended

The number of deaths caused by COVID19 (the disease caused by SARS-COV2, not SARS-COV2 - the reponse should be COVID19 numbers and NOT SARS-COV2 numbers) in your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020

A6 As answer 1

Q7 As COVID19 is a notifiable disease, the number of COVID19 cases notified to the appropriate authority by your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020;

Amended

As COVID19 is a notifiable disease, the number of COVID19 cases notified to the appropriate authority by your Trust in the period 01/01/2020-31/12/2020 (the response should be COVID19 numbers and NOT SARS-COV2 numbers).

A7 6,864 total positive PCR tests were notified to Public Health England (PHE SGSS) for both RSUH and County hospitals, during the specified period.

*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.

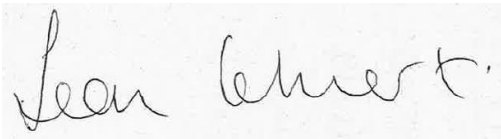
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager