



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-174

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 2nd July 2018

Tel: 01782 676474
Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 25th June 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding public health funerals.

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 Please tell me how many public health funerals your NHS Trust has provided in the financial years of:

- 2015/2016
- 2016/2017
- 2017/2018

A1 Please see below:

- 2015/2016 = 10
- 2016/2017 = 11
- 2017/2018 = 15

Q2 Please tell me the total cost of public health funerals your NHS Trust spent in the financial years of:

- 2015/2016
- 2016/2017
- 2017/2018

A2 Please see below:

- 2015/2016 = £12,860
- 2016/2017 = £14,146
- 2017/2018 = £19,292

Q3 What was the most expensive, and the cheapest, public health funeral this hospital Trust arranged in the financial years of:

- 2015/2016
- 2016/2017
- 2017/2018

A3 Please see below:

	Cheapest	Most expensive
2015/2016	£1172	£1184
2016/2017	£1179	£1244
2017/2018	£1220	£1286

Q4 How many of the public health funerals given in the financial years of:

- **2015/2016**
- **2016/2017**
- **2017/2018 were for a still-born baby**

A4 Please see below:

- 2015/2016 = 0
- 2016/2017 = Section 40 exemption as detailed below
- 2017/2018 = 0

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*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers of being less than 5 in 2016/17.

Q5 How many times is an unmarked grave used?

A5 None

Q6 Please tell me how long a body was held in your hospital mortuary until the public health funeral was arranged.

A6 The longest a body has been in our mortuary is between 4- 6 weeks, we are unable to break this down further as this is depending on any investigations and searches that are completed.

*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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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 676474.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mojgan Casillas', written over a horizontal line.

Mojgan Casillas
Interim Information Governance Manager