



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-097

Date: 7th June 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 7th May 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding data update.

You stated:

'The response we received on the 08th of Mar was requested on 7th Dec 2020 (Data requested period is from September 2020 –December 2020).

The recent request which was sent on 30th Mar (Data requested period is from December 2020-March 2021), we are hoping to get a recent data. Please let us know if you could provide us with 2021 data.'

On 12th May 2021 we contacted you via email with the following:
Please can you confirm what set of questions you require UHNM to answer as you send in multiple FOI requests as we need to be certain that we are responding to the correct set?

On 14th May 21021 we contacted you again by email as we still hadn't had confirmation from you as to which set of questions you required answering.

On 24th May 2021 you replied via email with a new set of questions (below)

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, 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 takes 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.

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

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 question 2 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore

have to individually access all health 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 health 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 question 1 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 How many patients were treated in last 4 months by the Dermatology department with each of the following:

- **Abrocitinib**
- **Acitretin**
- **Alitretinoin**
- **Azathioprine**
- **Baricitinib**
- **Ciclosporin**
- **Dupilumab**
- **Methotrexate**
- **Mycophenolate mofetil**
- **Pimecrolimus**
- **Tacrolimus ointment**
- **Upadacitinib**

A1 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 as being <5

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

Row Labels	Patient Count
Acitretin	59
Azathioprine	13
Baricitinib	<5
Ciclosporin	31
Dupilumab	31
Methotrexate	124

Mycophenolate mefetil	5
Pimecrolimus	<5
Tacrolimus ointment	16

Q2 How many patients were treated in the last 4 months with phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) for?

- **Atopic Dermatitis**
- **Psoriasis**
- **Any skin condition**

A2 Section 12 exemption as detailed above.

*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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

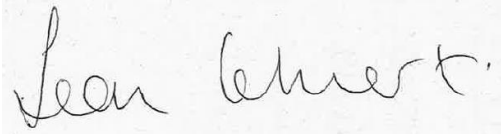
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager