



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-642

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

Date: 20th January 2025

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 18th December 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Circumcision Data

Q1 Please can you provide me with all data from January 2013 to the present relating to adverse outcomes from circumcision of infant boys (aged 0-1) whether at hospital or off-site.

This data to include as a minimum the total number of infant circumcisions performed within the trust's catchment area, all attendances to the Emergency Department and/or admissions to paediatric or general Intensive Care Unit as a result of circumcision, including but not limited to death, coma, life threatening haemorrhage, shock, sepsis, amputation etc.

Data should also include any adverse outcomes which are not life threatening but are unintended consequences including but not limited to partial degloving, partial amputation, damage to the scrotum/groin/surrounding tissues, nerve damage, penile adhesions etc.

This data should further be broken down by year, by hospital/GP/other medical institution and whether the operation was performed in-house or off-site/in a private location.

A1 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 this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records (571 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

The Trust's current clinical information system does not record whether the patient has attended the hospital due to adverse outcomes following surgery. We do not record on the patient's admission record the reason for the admission.

If the patient attended ED due to complications following surgery, we would record the complication the ED department was treating. There is no field on the system that allows the Trust to state the reason for the attendance.

*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.

Yours,

L Carlisle

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