



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-719

Date: 5th March 2025

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 13th January 2025 sent to our executive office and received into our office 20th January requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding hernia patients

Note in order to avoid delay in responding the following email address should be used.
foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Q1 I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF NORTH MIDLANDS NHS TRUST.

Please may you provide me with the answers to the following questions:

<p>1.What are the total number of NHS referrals for primary inguinal, femoral, umbilical and epigastric hernia repairs at your Trust in the last 3 years with a year on year breakdown?</p>	
<p>2. What are the total number of primary inguinal, femoral, umbilical and epigastric hernia repairs performed for the NHS at your Trust in the last 3 years with a year on year breakdown?</p>	
<p>3. How many of these NHS Hernia patients were treated by Open repair? And how many by Laparoscopic repair? Of these treated by Open repair, how many were done under a Local Anaesthetic?</p>	

4. What proportion of these NHS hernia patients required an overnight stay during the period above or for what period you are able to provide this?	
5. What is the average wait time for an NHS hernia patient to be seen in an outpatient clinic?	
6. What is the average time between an NHS hernia patient being listed for surgery to the operation being performed?	
7. How many NHS hernia patients have required readmission following any type of hernia surgery outlined above?	
8. How many patients developed a post operative infection within 10 days of surgery?	
9. How many patients developed chronic pain after the Hernia repair?	
10. How many patients developed a recurrent hernia within one year of Surgery?	

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 questions 7, 8, 9 and 10 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*

Please refer to the table below.

Question	Response
1. What are the total number of NHS referrals for primary inguinal, femoral, umbilical and epigastric hernia repairs at	We do not record on the referral, the reason/potential condition the referral is for. Therefore, this data

your trust in the last 3 years with a year on year breakdown?	is not captured in our clinical information system
2. What are the total number of primary inguinal, femoral, umbilical and epigastric hernia repairs performed for the NHS at your trust in the last 3 years with a year on year breakdown?	Year Total
	2022 718
	2023 952
	2024 974
	Grand Total 2644
3. How many of these NHS Hernia patients were treated by Open repair? And how many by Laparoscopic repair? Of these treated by Open repair, how many were done under a Local Anaesthetic?	Laparoscopic – 408 Open – 2,236 Under LA - 0
4. What proportion of these NHS hernia patients required an overnight stay during the period above or for what period you are able to provide this?	1055 out of the 2644 patients had an overnight stay
5. What is the average wait time for an NHS hernia patient to be seen in an outpatient clinic?	Unfortunately, we do not record, on our clinical information system, the reason why the patient is attending an outpatient clinic.
6. What is the average time between an NHS hernia patient being listed for surgery to the operation being performed?	Excluding non-elective patients, the average time from Decision to Admit to admission is 166 days
7. How many NHS hernia patients have required readmission following any type of hernia surgery outlined above?	Unfortunately, we do not record the reason why a person was admitted. We can identify if a person has been readmitted within the national guidance of a readmission. However, to identify the reason will require a manual review of the patients. Section 12 exemption has been applied as detailed above
8. How many patients developed a post operative infection within 10 days of surgery?	Unfortunately, we are unable to identify these patients as we do not record the reason for the post operative infection. We can identify patients who have a post operative infection. However, to identify the reason will require a

	<p>manual review of the patients.</p> <p>Section 12 exemption has been applied as detailed above</p>
<p>9. How many patients developed chronic pain after the Hernia repair?</p>	<p>This would require an audit to be undertaken on the 2644 patients to see if they developed chronic pain after surgery.</p> <p>Section 12 exemption has been applied, as detailed above.</p>
<p>10. How many patients developed a recurrent hernia within one year of Surgery?</p>	<p>Unless the person underwent surgery again within 1 year of the previous surgery, we cannot identify if a patient is diagnosed again with a hernia, as we do not record this on our clinical information system any diagnoses made in outpatient clinics.</p> <p>Section 12 exemption has been applied, as detailed above</p>

*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 relating to the response please 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,



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