



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-121

Date: 7th June 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 20th May 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding AMU

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 respond to the following requests in line with the 2000 Freedom of Information Act:

Based on data from the last financial year:

Please state what percentage of your total discharges from the Acute Medical Unit are discharged home/to usual place of residence without support

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. 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 we can comply with your request within the 18 hour timeframe if this question is reduced to information that is held centrally. In order to avoid further delay to your response we have provided this below.

Careflow does not identify whether a patient is sent home with or without support. This is held in the patients notes therefore will require someone to manually review the notes to ascertain this information.

The following figures show all discharges from AMU who were discharged home/to usual place of residence.

Royal Stoke AMU – 1273 discharges
County AMU – 2028 discharges

Q2 For those patients, what was the average length of stay in the Acute Medical Unit?

A2 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. 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 we can comply with your request within the 18 hour timeframe if this question is reduced to information that is held centrally. In order to avoid further delay to your response we have provided this below.

As per Q1 the following figures are based on all discharges from AMU who were discharged home/to usual place of residence.

Royal Stoke AMU – 1.8 days
County AMU – 2.1 days

Q3 Please state what percentage of all admitted patients from A&E waited more than 12 hours from decision to admit to actual admission (12hr+ trolley waits)

A3 17.2%

Q4 Please state what percentage of cancelled elective operations for non-clinical reasons were due to:

- a. unavailable ward beds
- b. unavailable surgeon
- c. unavailable anaesthetist
- d. unavailable theatre staff

A4 Last Financial Year – 2023/24

There were 1639 elective operations cancelled for non-clinical reasons.

a. unavailable ward beds – we do not have this as a reason, however we do have “No ITU/HDU Beds & No suitable beds” reasons, so we have added these together to give – 118 (7.2%)

- b. unavailable surgeon – we do not have this as a reason, however we do have “No Consultant Available” reason, so we have used this instead – 211 (12.9%)
- c. unavailable anaesthetist – 27 (1.6%)
- d. unavailable theatre staff – 81 (4.9%)

*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 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,



Rachel Montinaro

Data Security and Protection Manager - Records