



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-481b

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

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 17th January 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding on response for Guillain Barre Syndrome.

You stated:

*'So you are telling me that UHNM makes and keeps no record in any way at all if it yellow cards a patient to the MHRA? It is also the case that if the trust sees a series of patients that it doesn't take any note or assess further. It doesn't advise clinicians of a possible trend in cases and that they should be aware of something on clinical presentation?'*

*If so, such a system would not fill me with confidence that we are keeping across adverse effects from vaccination.'*

Our response:

Careflow (clinical system) does not record if there was a yellow card occurrence nor does it hold a person's vaccination status as this is held by the person's GP record to which we do not have access. You asked specifically about Guillain Barre Syndrome (We can identify the patients diagnosed using the following clinical code: G610 - Guillain-Barré syndrome) there have been 45 patients discharged and diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrome since January 2020. However, if all these case notes were pulled and checked for those patients who had been vaccinated with the Astra Zeneca jab it would be impossible for a clinician to state that the discharge was *definitely* caused by the vaccine. Therefore our response below which re-directed you to Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency was correct.

The web page provided states all issues with vaccination

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 I would like to request, using the Freedom of Information Act, how many patients that University Hospitals North Midlands has identified with Guillain Barre Syndrome which has been associated with vaccination with the Astrazeneca-Oxford vaccine and the severity of their disease.**

A1 Information not held by UHNM, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, where all side effects to medicines, vaccines, medical device and test kit incidents for used in coronavirus testing and treatment may hold this information.

<https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

**Q2 Can I also request all emails, reports or investigations held by UHNM that may be associated with this issue?**

A2 Information not held.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the body where all side effects to medicines, vaccines, medical device and test kit incidents for used in coronavirus testing and treatment may hold this information.

<https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

\*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.

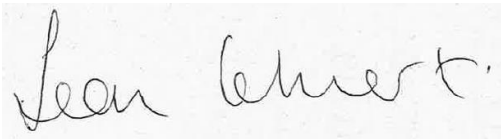
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**