



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-397

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 20th September 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding spine surgery procedures

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 make a formal FOI request on data for the following spine surgery procedures and their totals by individual operators within your Trust between 01.04.2022 – 01.04.2023:**

- V22 Primary decompression operations on cervical spine**
- V23 Revisional decompression operations on cervical spine**
- V24 Decompression operations on thoracic spine**
- V25 Primary decompression operations on lumbar spine**
- V26 Revisional decompression operations on lumbar spine**
- V27 Decompression operations on unspecified spine**
- V37 Primary fusion of joint of cervical spine**
- V38 Primary fusion of other joint of spine**
- V39 Revisional fusion of joint of spine**
- V40 Stabilisation of spine**
- V41 Instrumental correction of deformity of spine**
- V42 Other correction of deformity of spine**
- V43 Extirpation of lesion of spine**
- V49 Exploration of spine**
- V54 Other operations on spine**
- V56 Primary foraminoplasty of spine**
- V57 Revisional foraminoplasty of spine**
- V67 Other primary decompression operations on lumbar spine**
- V68 Other revisional decompression operations on lumbar spine**
- V69 Other primary decompression operations on cervical spine**
- V70 Other revisional decompression operations on cervical spine**

A1 See attached spread sheet: note - 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 provide the number of procedures.  
*This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.*

\*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.***

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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).

Yours,



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

