

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-091

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

Date: 22nd June 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 16th June 2020 (received into our office 17th June 2020) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid-19 discharges

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

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 question 6 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual 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 individual 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 if your request is shortened to just the questions we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information:

1) How many covid-19 outbreaks have there been in care homes in your region between March 1st and June 16th 2020?

A1 UHNM is an Acute Trust therefore this question is not applicable

Q2 How many care homes did you provide oxygen to as a result of covid-19 outbreaks between?

- a) March 1st to April 15th
- b) April 15th to June 16th

A2 As answer 1

Q3 How many hospital patients were discharged to care homes between?

- a) March 1st to April 15th
- b) April 15th to June 16th

A3 Please see below: please note, Government and Public Health England guidance to test all patients being discharged into a care home did not come into effect until 15th April 2020

- a) March 1st to April 15th = 694
- b) April 16th to June 16th = 814

Q4 How many hospital patients discharged to care homes were tested for covid-19? Please give totals for:

- a) March 1st to April 15th
- b) April 15th to June 16th

A4 Please see below: please note, Government and Public Health England guidance to test all patients being discharged into a care home did not come into effect until 15th April 2020

- a) March 1st to April 15th = 165
- b) April 16th to June 16th = 529

Q5 How many of the test results in Q4 were:

- a) Positive
- b) Negative
- c) Inconclusive/ void

A5 Please see below

- a) Positive = 216
- b) Negative = 478
- c) Inconclusive/ void = not applicable

Q6 How many of the hospital patients discharged to care homes who tested positive for covid-19 were asymptomatic?

A6 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

Q7 How many covid-19 related ambulance call-out requests did you receive from care homes between:

- a) March 1st to April 15th
- b) April 15th to June 16th

A7 Information not held by UHNM, information may be available by contacting West Midlands Ambulance Services at the following email address: foi@wmas.nhs.uk

Q8 How many of the call-out requests referred to in Q6 did you send an ambulance to between:

- a) March 1st to April 15th
- b) April 15th to June 16th

A8 As answer 7.

Q9 How many care home residents did you admit to hospital between March 1st to June 16th? Please give totals for:

- a) Those with suspected or confirmed covid-19
- b) Non-covid-19 related patients

A9 Total Care Home Admissions = 1483

Of these 694 were tested for Covid-19 though the reason for admission is not recorded.

*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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager