



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-860

Date: 12th April 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 11th March 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Postural tachycardia syndrome.

On 12th March 2024 we contacted you via email with the following:
To continue with your request we require clarification on the following:

A time frame in order to collate the information.

On the same day you replied via email with:

'Thank you for your response requiring clarification of the timeframe for this request. Please could you provide information from the last 5 financial years if possible i.e. from 2018/19 onwards.'

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 Postural tachycardia syndrome (PoTS) is a neurovascular condition characterised as an abnormal response by the autonomic nervous system to upright posture. The condition causes affected patients of all ages to experience a range of symptoms requiring extensive clinical investigations involving neurology and cardiology specialties to inform a positive diagnosis.

Please consult with cardiology, neurology, emergency medicine, care of the elderly and paediatrics specialties to provide the information requested.

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 1, 2, and 4 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

Refer to the attached document that you supplied

*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,





University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

