

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-499

Royal Stoke University Hospital  
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding liver function tests

On the same day we contacted you via email as we required a time frame for the information to be collated.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 you replied via email with the following:  
*"2000 to 2019, However many Patients did you include to formulate your standardise figure"*

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 am writing to request your assistance under the Freedom of Information Act. I am undertaking a clinical audit of the normal ranges of liver function tests, and how these normal ranges were developed or established across the UK. We suggest that the best point of contact internally will be the Head of Clinical Biochemistry (chemical pathology). Once we have completed the AUDIT we will share the results with you to pass on to the Head of Clinical Biochemistry or chemical pathology. If any question is too difficult or impossible to answer, please simply return the data you have available.**

**I would be grateful therefore if you could provide me with the following:**

**1. The normal range for ALT, AST, and Alkaline phosphatase that your hospital uses for your adult patients (male and female).**

A1 Please see below:

- ALT normal range is 0-48U/L based on Kit insert IFU
- AST normal range is 0-31U/L based on kit insert IFU
- Alkaline phosphatase normal range is 30-130U/L based on Pathology Harmony 2011

**Q2 The method used - reference and temperature, or some means for us to identify the methods used (e.g. machine name and reference to the kit used).**

A2 Please see below:

- ALT method used is Siemens Advia 2400 without PLP (pyridoxal-phosphate)
- AST method used is Siemens Advia 2400 without PLP (pyridoxal-phosphate)

- Alkaline phosphatase method used is Siemens Advia 2400 with AMP (2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol)

**Q3 How was your local normal range for each liver function test determined? And do you know the date (year) when these were last revised?**

A3 Reference ranges are based on Pathology Harmony standardisation programme 2011

**Q4 How many measurements of for each of ALT, AST, and alkaline phosphatase does your laboratory undertake each year?**

A4 Please see below:

- ALT test numbers (1<sup>st</sup> April 2018- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019) = 607,176
- AST test numbers (1st April 2018- 31st March 2019) = 26,376
- Alkaline phosphatase test numbers (1st April 2018- 31st March 2019) = 640,825

**Q5 How many patients does this represent?**

A5 This information is not recorded in the format you are requiring and would therefore require us to extrapolate information and create a new report to provide this. The FOI Act covers information held by the Trust, and we are not obliged to create new information in order to answer an FOI request, As well as creating new information, this would also take in excess of the 18 hours allowed for under the FOI Act, and would therefore be exempt under section 12: *cost of compliance is excessive.*

In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

**Q6 How many or what % of ALT measurements exceed your upper limit of normal. How many or what % of ALT measurements are  $\geq 20$ U/L for women, and  $\geq 31$  U/L for men.**

A6 As answer 5

\*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.

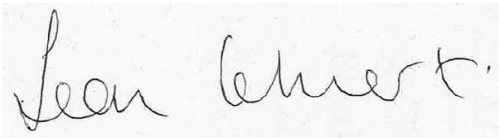
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**