



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-062

Date: 2nd May 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 22nd April 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Psychedelics Consumption

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 How many times ‘microdosing’ psychedelic substances was included as a reason for hospital admissions in your Trust in 2022, 2023 and 2024 to date.

A1 We do not record on Careflow the reason for an admission. This may be held in the paper medical records; however we would have to review all admissions for the period 2022-2024 to see if this information can be obtained, therefore:

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 this question 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*

Q2 How many times the consumption of psychedelic substances in any quantity was included as a reason for hospital admissions in your Trust in 2022, 2023 and 2024 to date.

Such substances include but are not limited to:

- Magic Mushrooms (e.g. Psilocybin)
- MDMA

-LSD
-DMT
-Ayahuasca (e.g. Harmaline)
-Salvia

Please break this down by drug, year and patient age.

Please provide information in an Excel spreadsheet.

A2 We do not record on Careflow the reason for an admission. This may be held in the paper medical records; however we would have to review all admissions for the period 2022-2024 to see if this information can be obtained, therefore:

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 this question 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*

*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,

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records