



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-224

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

Date: 2nd August 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 16th July 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding oesophageal and gastric cancer.

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 partial question 2 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 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*

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 that 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 researching the incidence and treatment of oesophageal and gastric cancer. I would greatly appreciate if you could answer the following questions.

Q1. Does your Trust treat the following conditions?

- **Advanced oesophageal cancer**
- **Advanced gastric cancer**
- **In case you do not treat either of the above conditions, which other Trust do you refer these patients to?**

A1 See below:

- Advanced oesophageal cancer = Yes
- Advanced gastric cancer = Yes
- In case you do not treat either of the above conditions, which other trust do you refer these patients to? = Not applicable

Q2 Please provide the total number of patients treated in the last 6 months for

- **Oesophageal cancer (any type)**
- **Oesophageal adenocarcinoma**
- **Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma**
- **Unresectable oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma**
- **Gastric cancer (any type)**
- **HER2 negative or HER2 untested gastric cancer**

A2 We are unable to provide some of 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 band the numbers as being <5
This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Oesophageal cancer (any type) = 67 first treatments for patients with an oesophageal (ICD-10 code C15) primary cancer over the period January to June 2021

- Oesophageal adenocarcinoma = 50
- Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma = 7
- Unresectable oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma = <5 out of 7 patients received surgery as first treatment
- Gastric cancer (any type) = Unsure what ICD-10 diagnosis codes to include
- HER2 negative or HER2 untested gastric cancer = Section 12 exemption as detailed above

Q3 For oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma only, how many patients were treated in the past 6 months with?

- **Platinum and Fluoropyrimidene based combination treatments (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin with 5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)**
- **Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy**
- **Palliative care only**

A3 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 band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. See below:

- Platinum and Fluoropyrimidene based combination treatments (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin with 5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)
Cisplatin & 5FU = 0
Cisplatin & Capecitabine = 0
Oxaliplatin & 5FU = 0
Oxaliplatin & Capecitabine = 5
- Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy
Epirubicin, Oxaliplatin & Capecitabine = 13
Epirubicin, Cisplatin & Capecitabine = 9

Fluorouracil, Folinic Acid, Oxaliplatin & Docetaxel = 12

Capecitabine, Oxaliplatin & Trastuzumab = <5

Paclitaxel & Carboplatin = 21

Cisplatin & Etoposide = <5

Cisplatin & Vinorelbine = <5

Paclitaxel, Carboplatin & Capecitabine = <5

Epirubicin, Carboplatin & Capecitabine = <5

Carboplatin, Capecitabine & Trastuzumab = <5

Pembrolizumab, Pemetrexed & Carboplatin = <5

Carboplatin & Etoposide = <5

- Palliative care only - data not held for patients on Best Supportive Care, as not on active SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy)

****PLEASE NOTE THIS INCLUDES ALL OESPHAGEAL CANCER PATIENTS NOT JUST SQUAMOUS CELL AS PATIENT NOTES WOULD NEED TO BE ACCESSED IN ORDER TO DIFFERENTIATE****

Q4 For gastric cancer only, how many patients were treated in the past 6 months with?

- **CapeOx (Capecitabine with Oxaliplatin)**
- **FOLFOX (Folinic acid, Fluorouracil and Oxaliplatin)**
- **Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy**
- **Palliative care only**

A4 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 band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. See below:

- CapeOx (Capecitabine with Oxaliplatin) - 0
- FOLFOX (Folinic acid, Fluorouracil and Oxaliplatin) = <5
- Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy –
Fluorouracil, Folinic Acid, Oxaliplatin & Docetaxel = <5
Epirubicin, Oxaliplatin & Capecitabine = <5
Capecitabine, Oxaliplatin & Trastuzumab = <5
- Palliative care only - data not held for patients on Best Supportive Care, as not on active SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy)

Q5 Does your Trust participate in any on-going clinical trials for the treatment of oesophageal cancer? If so, can you please provide the name of each trial and the number of patients taking part?

A5 No

Q6 Does your Trust participate in any on-going clinical trials for the treatment of gastric cancer? If so, can you please provide the name of each trial and the number of patients taking part?

A6 No

*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.

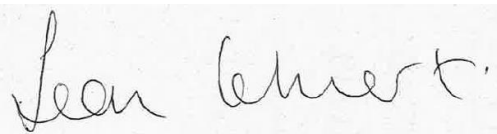
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

