



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-435

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

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid-19

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, 5, 7 and 9 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/death records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health/death 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/death 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 would like to make a number of requests under Freedom of Information legislation, regarding the Trust.**

**I have the following questions, I'd be really grateful if they could be answered:**

- 1. How many deaths have there been from JUST Covid 19 across the University Hospitals of the North Midlands (i.e. the Trust). These are deaths attributed just to COVID and no other health conditions.**

**I am interested in figures from the 1/1/2020 until 1/1/2021 please.**

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above. Please note: We are counting COVID-19 deaths as per the national guidance. The figure, and a description of the definition we are using, are published daily and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

The link to the Trust level data is available in the daily spread sheet in the section titled 'COVID-19 all announced deaths'.

NHS England has the following: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

Please note that we are providing these links under Section 21 of the FOI Act – 'Information reasonably accessible to the applicant via other means'.

**Q2 How many admissions from JUST Covid (and nothing else) have there been in the same period**

A2 As answer 1

**Q3 How many admissions (for everything) were there between 1/11/2020 and 1/1/2021? A breakdown by month would be preferred.**

A3 See below:

	Nov	Dec	Jan (1st only)	Total
2020-21	14962	14759	234	29955

**Q4 How many admissions (for everything) were there between 1/11/2019 and 1/1/2020? A breakdown by month would be preferred.**

A4 See below: Time Period - 1/11/2019 and 1/1/2020 (inclusive)  
This is ALL admissions for the period stated.

	Nov	Dec	Jan (1st only)	Total
2019-20	20503	19405	297	40205

**Q5 Of the numbers in point 4, how many were flu-like? It is my belief that Covid has been in the UK since at least October 2019, I wanted to see if the admissions reflected this**

A5 Section 12 exemption as detailed above: however you may find further information at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-flu-reports>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsduetocoronaviruscovid19comparedwithdeathsfrominfluenzaandpneumoniaenglandandwales/deathsoccurringbetween1januaryand31august2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-flu-levels-according-to-phe-statistics-2019-to-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/search?q=influenza>

**Q6 How many admissions (for everything) were there between 1/11/2018 and 1/1/2019? A breakdown by month would be preferred.**

A6 See below: This is ALL admissions for the period stated.

	Nov	Dec	Jan (1st only)	Total
2018-19	20992	19444	287	40723

**Q7 Of the people dying with Covid and other conditions, what was the most common co-morbidity?**

A7 As answer 1

**Q8 How many staff have had to isolate due to the "track and trace" app since 1/11/2020 - 1/1/2021 as opposed to actually testing positive or having symptoms.**

A8 The number of employees who reported an absence for the period 01.11.20 to 01.01.21 by answering 'yes' to the 'Test and Trace' question in the absence management system was 567

**Q9 What is the number of people hospitalised for flu in:**

**December 2018, 2019 and 2020. Of these, how many died.**

I appreciate that there is quite a list there. As stated, it is clear to me that there is a lot of anecdotal evidence to say that Covid was in the UK in Autumn of 2019. Of course you can't detect something if you don't test for it, so I am pretty sure that it would have been misdiagnosed as flu or similar.

I also believe that the track and trace app is not helping the situation on the front line. As a key worker myself I have some understanding of this.

A9 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.

***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.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

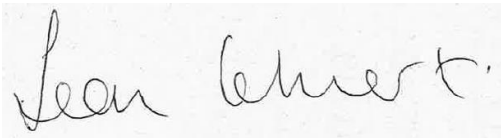
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**