

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-135

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

Date: 7th August 2020

Email foi@uhnms.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 21st July 2020 (received into our office 22nd July) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding referral to treatment

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

As of 1st 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 wish to make a series of separate requests under the Freedom of Information Act. For convenience, I am including them in the same email. Please treat each as a separate request under the terms of the Act, although please do respond in one correspondence if convenient. The requests are as follows:

- 1. Please confirm or deny if your Trust holds information on waiting lists for follow-up appointments for those patients who are not captured within the referral to treatment (RTT) pathway (these may be classed as chronic disease patients, or patients whose RTT has stopped)**

A1 Confirmed

Q2 How many patients who require a follow-up appointment (but are not captured in the RTT pathway) does your Trust have on its waiting list as of 22 May 2020 (or the closest previous date for which figures are available?)

A2 UHNM does not hold the information for the date requested as we only hold monthly snapshots (data which is given for the 31st May 2020). 172055

Q3 Of the patients in request #2, how many have been waiting (a) over 6 months and (b) over 12 months; and how many do not have an appointment slot

A3 Information not held for the waiting times requested as we report at weeks waited not months waited therefore we have taken over 6 months to be 26 weeks and over, and over 12 months to be 52 weeks and over.

- 26+wks = 55773 with 17508 having no appointment as yet
- 52+wks = 22859 with 7095 having no appointment as yet

Q4 How many patients did your Trust have on its waiting list who require a follow-up appointment (but who were not captured within the RTT pathway) as at end-April 2019

A4 175056

Q5. How many referrals from GPs has your Trust rejected in each of the last 12 months?

A5 The Trust acts in accordance with the System approved Access Policy. Referrals to the Trust is managed through the national NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS) <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/e-referral-service>

Information related to rejected referrals is held by the above service.

*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.

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