



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-185

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 23rd June 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Transfusion practice

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 We write to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information as a provider of arterial services. We are interested in transfusion practice around UK elective open AAA repair which is not captured or reflected in other publicly available resource. To accurately reflect contemporaneous practice, between the dates 01.01.2018 – 31.12.2022, we would be grateful if you could provide information on the following points with responses as set out in the table below:**

- **Autologous cell salvage equipment availability for the Vascular unit**
- **Number of elective open infra-renal (non-complex) AAA repairs performed each year**
- o **In whom, the number of patients who received red cell transfusions**
- The number of units transfused and phase in which the transfusion occurred**
- **And finally, the number of 30day mortalities in those receiving a transfusion versus not**

**Please attached letter, detailing the information requested.**

A1 I can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in some of the questions 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*

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 are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. Please refer to the attached letter which you supplied

\*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](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,





University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

