



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-701

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 10th March 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 5th March 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding deceased persons

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 Please could you kindly send me any information you may hold relating persons who have died with no known next of kin* (*defined as blood relatives, this would include patients who have listed next of kin but where such persons are friends or non-blood relatives) since 1/2/20 to the day of your reply, or as close as possible to this date. Please include:

1. Full names of deceased persons,
2. Dates of death,
3. Marital status,
4. Maiden surnames of married or widowed females,
5. Dates of birth or ages at death,
6. Last known addresses,
7. Estimated value of estates, if known.

A1 UHNM considers this information regarding deceased persons, is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the following link: Bona Vacantia
https://www.bonavacantialist.co.uk/?gclid=EAlalQobChMlUVHQiOGF6AIVS7TtCh3GMwJqEAA YASAAEqKmd_D_BwE

In addition to the above exemption the Trust is applying the following exemptions: section 31(1) (a) and section 41(1)(a)(b)

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust. This is because the information requested is exempt under section 31(1) (a) *the prevention or detection of a crime*. The Trust determines that the disclosure of deceased person's personal information could prejudice prevention or detection of crime for identity fraud, theft of physical assets from a deceased's estate and criminal trespass.

Section 41(1)(a)(b) *information provided in confidence*. This information was provided to the Trust whilst the patient was alive and had an expectation of confidentiality; therefore the Trust retains the duty of confidentiality after death.

*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.

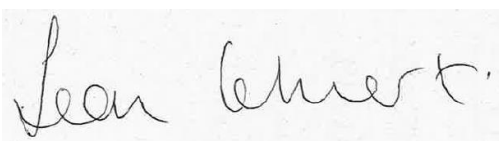
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,





University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager

