

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-752

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 8th February 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Ophthalmology services.

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 we contacted you via email as we required a time fromae:

On the same day you replied via email with the following:

1. **What is the maximum number of wet-AMD injections you can facilitate in a week?**  
*This would be the max you can do in a week at max capacity.*
3. **A.) What is the current waiting time for patients to secure an appointment for Wet-AMD injections?**  
*This would be the current length of time a patient would have to wait to secure an appointment.*
4. **A.) How many patients are currently waiting for an appointment at a wet-AMD clinic?**  
*This would be the total number of patients currently on the list.*

*Please let me know if you require anything else at all?*

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UJNM) 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 Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to request the answers to the below questions, in relation to your Ophthalmology services at the hospital trusts.**

**WET-AMD INJECTIONS:**

**1. What is the maximum number of wet-AMD injections you can facilitate in a week?**

A1 224 injection slots for wet-amd patients

- Q2**
- A) Do you run out-of-hours lists to keep up with demand for wet-AMD injections?
  - B) If you are running additional lists, how are these lists being accommodated?
  - C) If you are running additional lists, are you utilising any alternative clinical space?

- A2 See below;  
A) Yes  
B) Weekend and evenings. If the cataract suite is available, we will use it for extra injection clinics in the week.  
C) We have 2 areas suitable for injections-
- Q3 A) What is the current waiting time for patients to secure an appointment for Wet-**
- A3 See below:  
A) All injection patients are injected within 7-10 days of request. We will open extra clinics, put extras on clinics as required on a weekly basis to accommodate all patients.  
B) Exactly the same- 7-10 days. We have always opened extra clinics to ensure all patients are injected within this time frame.
- Q4 A) How many patients are currently waiting for an appointment at a wet-AMD clinic?  
B) What was the wait time at the same point in time in 2023?**
- A4 It is not possible to provide accurate information as all our patients are on the same waiting list codes-  
Patients who are receiving 4 or 6 weekly reviews are seen at the most only a week after their appointment due date. As with our injection clinics we increase capacity/ open extra clinics in our virtual clinics as required.
- Q5 A) Do you have a contingency plan to increase capacity should this be required?  
B) If so, what is your contingency plan for wet-AMD injections?**
- A5 See below:  
1) yes  
2) Increasing our injection suite capacity by splitting the room into 2 injection suites and looking to County Hospital facilities.
- Q6 GENERAL CAPACITY:  
  
Are you outsourcing any ophthalmology clinical work to external parties or utilising insourcing partners? If so, what?**
- A6 Not applicable
- Q7 What condition takes up the majority of your clinical slots?**
- A7 Within the macular clinic- the majority of slots are taken up with wet amd patients. The diabetic injection patients are run in a separate service.
- Q8 Would you consider a mobile unit as an option to expand services and capacity?**
- A8 Potentially, but only once all other contingency had been utilised.
- Q9 What is the name and contact details of the Ophthalmology Service Lead?**

A9 The exemption which has been relied upon is section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with regards to the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the individual. The disclosure of this information is subject to balancing the legitimate interest to disclose against the rights of the individuals. Upon balancing these two factors, we have found that the rights of the individual outweigh the legitimate interest to disclose. Therefore, it would be unfair to the data subject if this information is disclosed. The disclosure of the name, job title, telephone number and email address would not add anything further to this request for information. Furthermore, it would be unfair to disclose the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the individual to the general public. The individual would expect a right to privacy. They would only expect that their name, job title, telephone number and email address are disclosed to the relevant people in connection with Trust business and also in relation to the discharge of the responsibilities involved in their post. It would not be reasonable to disclose their name, job title, telephone number and email address to the general public. Furthermore, the release of this information may also lead to a greater number of unsolicited correspondence. The first condition under section 40(3A) has been contravened as it would not be fair to disclose the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the individual. Therefore, the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the individual, has been withheld.

\*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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



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