

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-434

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

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding pregnancy and homelessness

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 I'm hoping to acquire more information about pregnant women attending obstetrics/maternity/antenatal care appointments within your Trust who declared themselves homeless – whether rough sleeping, in temporary accommodation, with no fixed address or sofa surfing.**

**I'd like full disclosure of data as outlined below and would appreciate your advice and direction, as specified under the Freedom of Information Act, if you feel there's a way of better refining my request to allow you to retrieve the information I'm interested in.**

**1. How many pregnant women presenting for initial obstetrics/maternity/antenatal care appointments within your Trust declared themselves as homeless or with no fixed address between 2015 and 2019? Please breakdown by year.**

**A1** Prior to September 2018 there was no formal/standardised way of recording patients who are of no fixed abode therefore information prior to 2018 is not held by UHNM.

We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers.

- 2018= 0
- 2019 =<5

*This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.*

**Q2 How many of those pregnant women still declared themselves as homeless or had no fixed address upon being admitted to a labour ward to give birth?**

A2 Prior to September 2018 there was no formal/standardised way of recording patients who are of no fixed abode therefore information prior to 2018 is not held by UHNM.

We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers.

- 2018= 0
- 2019 =<5

*This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.*

**Q3 For 1 and 2, if the information is available, please breakdown the numbers of women to specify how many were rough sleepers, how many were in temporary accommodation (please give numbers for hostels, B&Bs, refuges or other), or with no fixed address.**

A3 Information not held

**Q4 Please also provide figures for the outcomes of pregnancies for homeless women, broken down by the number that ended with a live birth, the number that underwent terminations, the number that had miscarriages and the number that were stillborn.**

A4 Prior to September 2018 there was no formal/standardised way of recording patients who are of no fixed abode therefore information prior to 2018 is not held by UHNM.

We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers.

Year	Births	Terminations	Miscarriages	Stillborn
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	<5	0	0	0

*This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.*

**Q5 Please indicate age groups for the number of pregnant women who declared themselves homeless – whether under 20, 20-30, 30-40 or 40+.**

A5 Prior to September 2018 there was no formal/standardised way of recording patients who are of no fixed abode therefore information prior to 2018 is not held by UHNM.

We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers.

- Under 20 = 0
- 20-30 = <5
- 30-40 = <5
- 40+ = 0

*This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.*

**Q6 How many of those who were pregnant had their child removed from their care at birth?**

**Please disclose your response in an Excel spreadsheet, with headings, where appropriate, as follows:**

**'TRUST' - 'YEAR' - 'NUMBER HOMELESS AT INITIAL APPOINTMENT' - 'NUMBER LIVING IN HOSTELS' - 'LIVING IN B&B' - 'ROUGH SLEEPING' - 'LIVING IN REFUGE' - 'WITH NFA' - 'STILL HOMELESS WHEN ADMITTED TO LABOUR WARD FOR DELIVERY' - 'LIVING IN HOSTEL AT TIME OF DELIVERY' - 'B&B AT TIME OF DELIVERY' - REFUGE AT TIME OF DELIVERY - NFA AT TIME OF DELIVERY - NO OF LIVE BIRTHS - NO OF TERMINATIONS - NO OF MISCARRIAGES - NO STILLBIRTHS - AGE UNDER 20 - AGE 20-30 - AGE 30-40 - AGE 40+ - NO OF BABIES REMOVED FROM MOTHER'S CARE**

**A6 Prior to September 2018 there was no formal/standardised way of recording patients who are of no fixed abode therefore information prior to 2018 is not held by UHNM.**

We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <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.***

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<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.

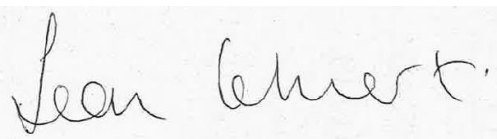
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**