



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-104

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

Date: 5th June 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13th May 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Myeloma Service Provision.

On 14th May 2024 we contacted you via email with the following:

To continue with your request we require clarification what you mean by regional board? Are you looking for Trust level or ICS?

On the same day you replied via email with :

'I apologise for my unclear writing in the request. I am requesting Trust-level information in each question, so I meant to ask for the total population size served by your Trust.'

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 I am requesting the following information on local healthcare and support service provision for multiple myeloma patients as part of a wider project (funded by Myeloma UK). Please provide the following information:

As of 1 Jan 2024:

- **Total population size served by Regional Board**
- **Number of hospitals providing oncology services**
- **Total number of consultant haematologists employees; specialist haematology registrars employed; consultant haematologists specialising in multiple myeloma; haematology clinical nurse specialists employed and multiple myeloma clinical nurse specialists.**

A1 Total population served, circa 700,000 lifted from the UHNM website.

We are unsure on what this is asking but, UHNM consists of Royal Stoke and County. We provide a haematology service at Leighton hospital as well.

Total numbers
12 consultants
5 specialists
6 regs
11 CNS split across haematology

- Q2 During 2023 (1 Jan – 31 Dec), please provide the:**
- **Total number of multiple myeloma (MM) cases diagnosed (Please state which code(s) were used)**
 - **If known, how many people were diagnosed with smouldering multiple myeloma?**
 - **How many in-person haematology-based consultation/telephone haematology-based consultations/ video haematology-based consultation took place for people diagnosed with MM?**

A2 See below:

- Total number of multiple myeloma (MM) cases diagnosed (Please state which code(s) were used) = There were 67 patients diagnosed at UHNM with C900 Multiple Myeloma
- If known, how many people were diagnosed with smouldering multiple myeloma? = we are unable to answer this question as it would require all patient notes being checked: section 12 exemption as detailed below:
- How many in-person haematology-based consultation/telephone haematology-based consultations/ video haematology-based consultation took place for people diagnosed with MM? = we are unable to answer this question as it would require all patient notes being checked, note, the patients don't have a specific code: section 12 exemption as detailed below:

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

- Q3 During 2023 (1 Jan – 31 Dec):**
- **Were multiple myeloma (MM) patients discussed/reviewed at a MM specific MDT or general haematology MDT?**
 - **How frequently did MDT meetings meet?**
 - **What percentage of MM patients diagnosed in 2023 were reviewed/discussed at a MDT?**
 - **Which professionals/disciplines are represented on MDT meetings for MM?**
 - **What supportive and palliative care services are available for MM patients?**

A3 Weekly MDT within general MDT. Clinical team attendance (consultants/regs/CNS/ANP) for MDT and patients have access to palliative care services and a CNS.

What percentage of MM patients diagnosed in 2023 were reviewed/discussed at a MDT? = we are unable to answer this question as it would require all weekly meeting minute notes being checked: section 12 exemption as detailed below:

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 meeting minute notes 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*

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records