



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital

Quality, Safety and Compliance Department

Newcastle Road

Stoke-on-Trent

Staffordshire

ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-459

Date: 21st November 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 5th November 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding avoidable deaths.

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 writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please send me:

1) Quarterly data on the number of avoidable deaths at the Trust (since records began) as required by the Department of Health and Social Care on 14th December 2017 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-becomes-first-healthcare-system-in-the-world-to-publish-numbers-of-avoidable-deaths>##targetText=NHS%20becomes%20first%20healthcare%20system%20in%20the%20world%20to%20publish,lessons%20and%20learn%20from%20failings.)

A1 We are unable to provide some of 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, please see below.

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

UHNM uses the nationally agreed Royal College of Physicians Structured Judgement Review proforma which reviews different stages of care provided whilst an inpatient. The following table provides the overall assessment of the reviewer for the care provided during the patients' inpatient admission.

Poor care does not necessarily equate to the death being avoidable but identifies areas of care that can be improved.

	SJR Ratings				
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Month of Patient Death and Quarter	1 = very poor care	2 = poor care	3 = adequate care	4 = good care	5 = Excellent care
Jan-18	<5	<5	<5	14	12
Feb-18		<5		16	8
Mar-18		<5	5	9	7
Q4 1718 Total	<5	9	9	39	27
Apr-18		5	7	10	10
May-18			<5	18	9
Jun-18		<5	<5	15	5
Q1 1819 Total	0	6	13	43	24
Jul-18		<5	<5	11	8
Aug-18		<5	5	8	6
Sep-18	<5	<5	<5	12	5
Q2 1819 Total	<5	<5	9	31	19
Oct-18	<5		5	7	<5
Nov-18		<5	6	11	<5
Dec-18	<5	5	8	15	8
Q3 1819 Total	<5	6	19	33	14
Jan-19	<5	<5	8	19	6
Feb-19		<5	<5	15	6
Mar-19		<5	7	9	11
Q4 1819 Total	<5	7	19	43	23
Apr-19		<5	5	19	6
May-19		<5	7	10	<5
Jun-19		<5	<5	9	<5
Q1 1920 Total	0	5	16	38	8
Jul-19			<5	<5	<5
Aug-19		<5	<5	7	<5
Sep-19				<5	<5
Q2 1920 Total	0	<5	5	10	6

Q2 Types of incident causing avoidable deaths

A2 Summary of the learning identified from the reviews includes:

- Delayed diagnosis
- Timeliness of assessments
- Appropriate transfer of patients between wards
- Prompt recognition of deterioration / changes
- Better assessment and documentation at admission

*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.

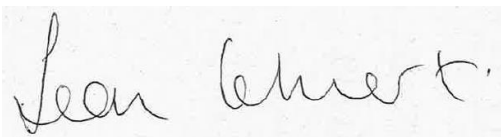
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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