



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-117b

Date: 29th May 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 22nd May 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding our response on Coroners' Prevention of Future Deaths Report

You emailed the following:

Thank you for confirming that the Trust holds this information and sharing the link to the Judiciary website. However, this response does not provide access to the information that is being requested due to the following reasons:

- 1. The Judiciary website contains coroners' Prevention of Future Deaths reports (PFDs) that have been sent by local coroners or coroners' offices to the Chief Coroner's Office for publication. It, therefore, does not contain all PFDs that the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust has been directly sent/addressed to by coroners as requested.*
- 2. The search function on the Judiciary website is not sophisticated enough to account for the spelling errors and inconsistency in the reporting of recipients' names that result from the manual publication of reports. These errors and inconsistencies include but are not limited to "University Hospitals North Midlands NHS Trust", "University Hospital of North Midlands", "University of North Midlands Hospital NHS Trust", "North Midlands NHS Trust" and "Royal Stoke University Hospital. Therefore, a simple search using "University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust" will be inaccurate and will not provide the requested data.*
- 3. To identify PFDs where the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust are listed as an 'interested person' within the document, these are only 'searchable' on the Judiciary website from January 2023 onwards when the Chief Coroner's Office started publishing the full text of reports online. Therefore, the request for the total number of PFDs where the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust was copied for information as an 'interested person' from inception (July 2013) is not accessible from the link shared.*

The initial request did not seek copies of each PFD received; rather, it requested a summarised count of the total number of PFDs where University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust was a listed addressee and copied for information as an interested person. Could we please request this information from inception (July 2013) until April 2024 (or the most recent data available), broken down as annual counts for each calendar year?

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.

Our original response sent 20th May 2024

Q1 Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting data relating to coroners' Prevention of Future Deaths reports (PFDs or Reg 28 letters) received by the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust. Can I please request the following:

The total number of PFDs where the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust was a listed addressee from inception (July 2013) until April 2024 (or the most recent available data), broken down as annual counts for each calendar year (e.g. for 2013 the number of reports from Jul to Dec; for 2014 the number of reports from January to December).

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this request, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the public website at the following link, which has a search facility.

[Reports to Prevent Future Deaths - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#)

Q2 The total number of PFDs where the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust was copied for information in as an 'interested person' from inception (July 2013) until April 2024 (or the most recent available data), broken down as annual counts for each calendar year (e.g. for 2013 the number of reports from Jul to Dec; for 2014 the number of reports from January to December).

A2 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this request, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the public website at the following link, which has a search facility.

[Reports to Prevent Future Deaths - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#)

Our amended response:

We only hold figures from 2017 which is when we started to add the PFDs onto our reporting system 'Datix':

| | |
|------|---|
| 2017 | 7 |
| 2018 | 4 |
| 2019 | 3 |
| 2020 | 3 |
| 2022 | 3 |
| 2023 | 1 |

We cannot say which PFDs the Trust were notified of, but not required to respond to, as we don't capture this information datix

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records