

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-516

Date: ** ***** 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Commented [c1]: Only add at final draft

Cindy Mung
x4k07@students.keele.ac.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 4th November 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) amputations

Q1 I am [REDACTED] and I am a fourth year student currently studying Physiotherapy in [REDACTED]. I am working on my dissertation which is about the trends of incidence of upper and lower extremity amputations in England from 2012 to 2023, and I require hospital data for describing and analysing the trend. I would like to request under Freedom of Information Act 2000, all data of upper and lower limb amputation procedure performed under your Trust from 2012 to 2023. The data set should include:

- Gender
- Age
- Level of amputation
- Type of amputation
- Number of amputations
- Hospital stay/duration
- Number of visits between amputation procedure
- Date of amputation
- Causes of amputation
- Risk factors
- Demography

In terms of data format preference, can I have the data in Microsoft Excel format?

A1 Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.

- **Level of amputation** – we do not hold this level of information as it is not recorded on our Clinical Information System.
- **Number of amputations** – we are unable to identify the number undertaken, as the clinical coding just relates to an amputation procedure, for example, it doesn't say 3 fingers were removed. This would require a manual audit of the 4595 patients to ascertain if 1 or more amputations were undertaken. Please see section 12 exemption detailed below.

- **Number of visits between amputation procedure** – we do not record the reason why a patient attended an outpatient appointment, so we are unable to advise if the appointment is due to the amputation or not. Therefore, without manually reviewing the 4595 patients we are unable to identify this level of information. Please see section 12 exemption detailed below.
- **Date of amputation** – This information is not recorded on our Clinical Information System.
- **Causes of amputation** – This information is not held on our Clinical Information System. This can only be obtained by manually reviewing patients notes. Please see Section 12 exemption detailed below.
- **Risk factors** – This information is not held on our Clinical Information System. This would again only be obtained by manually reviewing the patient's history, by looking for a history of diabetes, poor health care etc. Please see section 12 exemption as detailed below.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in some of your questions is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records. 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*

*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,



Leah Carlisle

Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records
Data Protection Officer

APPENDIX

On the same day we contacted you via email with the following:
To continue with your request we require clarification what you are meaning by number of visits ?

On 5th November you replied via email with
'The number of visits between amputation procedure refer to the number of appointments the patient had before and after amputation. Thank you very much.'

On 8th November we contacted you again as we required further information:
To continue with your request we require clarification what you are meaning demography as this is too vague?

On the same day you replied via email with:
'Demography refer to where patient lives, I do not require the exact place / post code, ideally area will be the best (e.g. Derby / Burton upon Trent / Stoke on Trent / Stafford)'

