

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25573

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection

Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 3rd March 2025

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 20th November 2024 sent to our communications team, requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) : wet AMD, diabetic macular oedema

Your reference number is 573- 2425 please quote this number on any correspondence. NOTE all requests should be sent to: foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Q1 We are trying to build a regional / system wide picture of medical retina services - Wet AMD and other anti VEGf treated condition, covering demand, capacity, and delivery. We plan to share our data with the Macular Society in support of their research and campaigning.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

For the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and current YTD, how many referrals have you received for wet AMD, diabetic macular oedema and retinal vein occlusion (Anti VEGf services) or perhaps referred to as medical retina?

A1 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 this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records. We are unable to keep any audit data on our WET AMD patients. Our injection clinics are mixed; we inject WET AMD, RVO, myopic CNV, pre surgery and DMO patients on any session. We do approximately 13 sessions a week which equates to over 250 patients a week. 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*.

Q2 For the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and current YTD, how many referrals have you rejected as unsuitable or undeliverable by your Trust?

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Q3 For the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and current YTD, how many referrals have you received, triaged, booked and completed first assessment and treatment within the 2 week RTT advised by NICE and the college of ophthalmologists? We are looking for your Trust performance data against the 14 day standard as a % by month for the periods - 2023/24 and 2024/25

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Q4 How many patients are currently on a waiting list for an appointment for first assessment and or treatment ? How many have breached the 2 week RTT?

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Q5 How many patients are currently on a waiting list for a follow up appointment and treatment? How many of these have waited longer than the requested call back date stated as an outcome of their last assessment? (ie overdue?) How many are overdue by more than one month? (We exclude from this any patients who have cancelled / DNA'd or are unable to attend an appointment that has been offered)

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Q6 Which drugs are your preferred for a new patient? Which drugs do you still use for follow-up patients?

A6 Faricimab is the preferred drug for new patient and follow up patients.

Q7 Does your Trust follow a see and treat "one stop" clinic format?

A7 We follow a see and treat 'one stop' clinic format at the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

Q8 Does your Trust follow treat and extend protocols where clinically appropriate?

A8 The Trust does follow treat and extend protocols where clinically appropriate.

Q9 How many patients have you certificated as sight impaired or severely sight impaired in the FYs 2022/23, 2023/24 and year to date due to Wet AMD?

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*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,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle

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

