



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-004

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

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 1<sup>st</sup> April sent to our Ministries team requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid 19.

On our acknowledgment we advised you that all FOI requests should be sent to the following email address to ensure a prompt response. [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

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 your question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/death records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health/death 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 individual health/death 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*

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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'm after FOI I would like to know how many people from August 2020 to the present day have died of Covid, and Covid alone, as in died of nothing else or had any underlined health issues.**

A1 As per our response to your FOI request on Covid deaths reference 422-2021 sent you on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above, however note:

We are counting COVID-19 deaths as per the national guidance. The figure, and a description of the definition we are using, are published daily and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

The link to the Trust level data is available in the daily spread sheet in the section titled 'COVID-19 all announced deaths'.

NHS England has the following below:



<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

Please note:

1. We are providing these links under Section 21 of the FOI Act – ‘*Information reasonably accessible to the applicant via other means*’.
2. UHNM has been answering Covid-19 related requests throughout the pandemic and you will find all of our responses at the following link:

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

\*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.***

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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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Yours,

Jean Lehnert  
Data, Security & Protection Manager