

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-155

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

Date: 18th August 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 30th July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding asthma drug usage

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

On 5th August 2020 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification: What you are referring to in regards of “serve asthma” do you actually mean acute severe asthma or status asthmaticus?

On 6th August 2020 you replied via email with the following:

“Yes we do mean ‘acute, severe asthma/status asthmaticus’”

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 researching the use of biologic products for the treatment of severe asthma. Could you please provide answers to the following questions?

Q1. How many adult patients and how many children have been treated by your Trust for severe asthma in the last three months?

- A1 As per your clarification above:
- Adult patients treated with biologic products (mabs) for severe asthma = 28
 - Paediatric patients treated with biologic products (mabs) for severe asthma = 6

- Q2 How many patients have been treated in the last three months with?**
- **Benralizumab**
 - **Omalizumab**
 - **Reslizumab**
 - **Mepolizumab**
- (Please provide total patients numbers regardless of disease)**

- A2 We are unable to provide 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, see below;

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

The number of patients treated in the last three months for asthma with:

- Benralizumab - 0
- Omalizumab - 32
- Reslizumab - 0
- Mepolizumab - <5

- Q3 How many patients have been treated in the last three months, for severe asthma ONLY, with:**
- **Dupilumab**
 - **Upadacitinib**

- A3 None

*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.

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

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager