



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-375

Date: 20th January 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 1st December 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding knife injury.

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 question 1 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual 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 individual 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

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 would like to please make a freedom of information request for the following information.

Please confirm how many:

- (i) adults**
- (ii) children (i.e. under 18 years)**

Were admitted to your hospital as a result of an assault with a knife or sharp object in each month from January 2016 up to the most recent month for which statistics are available where the incident occurred in, or the patient resided in, the town of Longton.

A1 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.

Q2 Please confirm the number of:

- (i) adults**
- (ii) children**

Who attended at the Accident and Emergency Department of your hospital as a result of an assault with a knife or sharp object which did not result in a hospital admission in each month from January 2016 up to the most recent month for which statistics are available, where the incident occurred in, or the patient resided in, the town of Longton.

A2 Please note that we do not record on our reporting system “Medway” the place where the incident occurred, however we can identify those patients whose home address is in Longton by looking at their postcode.

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 as being <5.

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

*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.

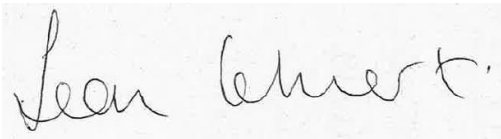
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust’s FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) and 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.

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

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager