



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-036

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

Date: 3rd September 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 12th April 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding usage of medicines in secondary care.

On 15th April we contacted you via email with the following:

To continue with your request we require clarification what data set you are referring to, is this just one data set? Please give an example

On 22nd April 2024 you replied via email with the following:

'I hope I can clarify my request for you in a helpful way.

The Drugs Patient Level Contract Monitoring Data Set is one data set.

The data set relates to the use of high cost (National Tariff-excluded) drugs.

The fields I requested in my FOI letter are a subset of the full data set.

Here is a link to the NHS Data Model and Dictionary page for the full data set specification Drugs Patient Level Contract Monitoring Data Set (datadictionary.nhs.uk).

I have added an attachment that shows some fictitious data in the structure I have received previously from your trust.'

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 conducting analysis on the usage of medicines in secondary care and kindly request your help.

I would be grateful if you could send me one dataset from your Trust, to inform this analysis:

(1) Drug Patient Level Contract Monitoring (DrPLCM) report

Data fields from the DrPLCM report, as specified in table 1 (below). Please do not send patient IDs or cost data, as I appreciate this would compromise data privacy and commercial sensitivity.

Appendices – specification

Please include the data fields specified within table 1:

1. Drug Patient Level Contract Monitoring (DrPLCM) report

An extract of records from this report for all hospitals in the Trust for the 12 months between April 2023 and March 2024

Sourced from NHS Digital, DrPLCM Technical Specification V2.6 document
<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/contract-monitoring>

Field number	Data Element
1	FINANCIAL MONTH
2	FINANCIAL YEAR
5	ORGANISATION IDENTIFIER (CODE OF PROVIDER)
6	ORGANISATION SITE IDENTIFIER (OF TREATMENT)
9	ORGANISATION IDENTIFIER (CODE OF COMMISSIONER)
19	ACTIVITY TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE
22	CLINICAL INTERVENTION DATE (DRUG DISPENSED)
23	THERAPEUTIC INDICATION CODE (SNOMED CT)
26	DRUG NAME (HIGH COST TARIFF EXCLUDED DRUG)
27	ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION (SNOMED CT DM+D)
28	DRUG STRENGTH (HIGH COST TARIFF EXCLUDED DRUG)
29	DRUG VOLUME (HIGH COST TARIFF EXCLUDED DRUG)
30	DRUG PACK SIZE (HIGH COST TARIFF EXCLUDED DRUG)
31	DRUG QUANTITY OR WEIGHT PROPORTION (HIGH COST TARIFF EXCLUDED DRUG)
32	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT (SNOMED CT DM+D) delete if we are not using this
33	DISPENSING ROUTE (HIGH COST TARIFF EXCLUDED DRUG)
34	PROVIDER REFERENCE NUMBER
35	COMMISSIONED SERVICE CATEGORY CODE
36	SERVICE CODE
37	NATIONAL CANCER DRUGS FUND FORM CODE
44	LOCAL CONTRACT MONITORING CODE
45	LOCAL CONTRACT MONITORING DESCRIPTION
46	CONTRACT MONITORING ADDITIONAL DETAIL (FIRST)
47	CONTRACT MONITORING ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION (FIRST)
51	VALUE ADDED TAX CHARGED INDICATOR (CONTRACT MONITORING)

A1 Refer to the attached spread sheet: **note:**

Data relates to financial year 2023-24

4 DrPLCM reports have been amalgamated as these are not submitted to one place.

Monthly drugs submissions are submitted to:

NHSE – NHS England Specialised Services Commissioning

ICBs - Integrated Care Boards

BCUHB - Betsi Cadwaladr UHB

WHSSC – Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee

This can be identified within the data by using the ORGANISATION_IDENTIFIER_(CODE_OF_COMMISSIONER) field.

14A – NHSE

BCUHB

WHSSC

All other codes - ICBs

Field 32 Unit of Measure (SNOMED CT DM+D) has been removed as requested as this is not populated.

Field 34 Provider Reference Number is populated but has details that have been removed as this can be linked to a patient.- Section 40 exemption as detailed below:

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

K	DRUG_STRENGTH_(HIGH_COST_TARIFF_EXCLUDED_DRUG)	Details included in column I - Drug Name - Information is not given in format to be able to separate this and with the volume of drugs would be too timely to breakdown this information. section 12 exemption as detailed below
L	DRUG_VOLUME_(HIGH_COST_TARIFF_EXCLUDED_DRUG)	Details included in column I - Drug Name - Information is not given in format to be able to separate this and with the volume of drugs would be too timely to breakdown this information- section 12 exemption as detailed below
P	PROVIDER_REFERENCE_NUMBER	This is populated but have removed the information as the reference number can be linked to a patient. This explanation is on the FOI form returned- section 40 exemption- as detailed above
S	NATIONAL_CANCER_DRUGS_FUND_FORM_CODE	Not Populated as information not provided
T	LOCAL_CONTRACT_MONITORING_CODE	Not Populated as information not provided
U	LOCAL_CONTRACT_MONITORING_DESCRIPTION	Not Populated as information not provided
V	CONTRACT_MONITORING_ADDITIONAL_DETAIL_(FIRST)	Not Populated as information not provided
W	CONTRACT_MONITORING_ADDITIONAL_DESCRIPTION_(FIRST)	Not Populated as information not provided

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 questions K and L is not held centrally,. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all pharmacy 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 pharmacy 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.

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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records