



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-513

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 6th December 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 26th November 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding cases of asthma.

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 questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records. 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*

On 27th November 2019 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

Could you clarify whether this means either:

- New diagnoses made

OR

- The number of times we have seen / treated patient with the stated conditions

Additionally your request states

“Breathing problems” can you please explain what you mean by this term as it is vague and specific conditions are needed to extract the information from the available data.

On 29th November 2019 you replied via email the following:

“*Could we please receive the information for 'new diagnoses' and 'asthma-related admissions'?*”

In terms of the clarification of 'breathing problems' could we specify the following?

- COPD
- anaemia
- emphysema
- chronic respiratory disease (if available)”

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 How many cases of asthma have been recorded at each of your hospital sites in your Trust from in each calendar year from 2014 – 2019?

A1 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

Q2 How many cases of other breathing problems have been recorded at each of your hospital sites in your Trust from in each calendar year from 2014-19?

Please could this data be broken down into cases per year (2014-19) per hospital in your Trust, and the age groups of the patients involved?

A2 As answer 1

*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.

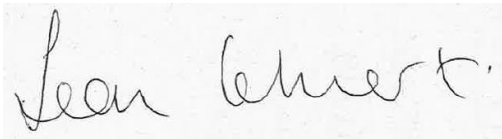
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager