



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-281

Date: 7th August 2024

Email foi@uhnms.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 31st July 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Chiropractic

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNMS) 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 This request includes the possibility of any injury etc being suffered while undergoing chiropractic from a third party who doesn't work for the Trust but the victim then presented to the Trust, ie via the A&E department. (link to response on 279-2425)

A1 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 health records (we have searched our data base by using the word "chiro" in the field where the ED triage notes are typed and following reviewing some records they refer to either the patient been referred from a chiropractor or having seen a chiropractor prior but we have found none from the reviewed that state they think their pain etc is caused by a chiropractor.

Since 01/01/2019 until today there are 252 records which reference "chiro" in their ED triage note so each of them would have to be manually reviewed to see if we can ascertain anything. It would mean reviewing every ED attendance to see if in the paper notes it references chiropractor. To put this into context there are over 160,000 ED attendances each year). Therefore, 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*

*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



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

