



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-689

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

Date: 2nd March 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 25th February 2020 sent to both the Communications team and to the FOI email inbox requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding prescribing in Ophthalmology.

On the same day we acknowledged your request and advised you that UHNM would be answering once as both requests were identical (section 14 exemption - *repeated requests*)

On 27th February 2020 we emailed you as UHNM has received several requests that are asking for similar information that are from the same person/company, therefore we were contacting you to inform you that under section 12 of the FOI Act we were aggregating these requests on:

- Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (previous ref 673-1920)
- Prescribing in Ophthalmology (previous Ref 688-1920)

Your new reference number is **689-1920**

The section 12 exemption states:

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from:

- **The same person or**
- **People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.**

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 3 (previous request reference 688-1920) and FOI previous reference 673-1920 all of your questions are 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*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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.

Previous reference 688-1920

Q1 Could you kindly provide the answers to the questions mentioned below for Ophthalmology and number of patients treated for the last 12 months with mentioned drugs.

1. Within your Trust how many patients over the last 12 months have received treatment with an anti VEGF therapy, who had not previously had anti VEGF therapy?

A1 548 patients

Q2 How many of these [from question 1] patients have received the following anti VEGF therapy in the last 12 months?

- Ranibizumab
- Bevacizumab
- Aflibercept
- Fluocinolone
- Dexamethasone

A2 Please see below:

- Ranibizumab = 382 patients
- Bevacizumab = 47 patients
- Aflibercept = 125 patients
- Fluocinolone = 0 patients
- Dexamethasone = 12 patients

Q3 Of the patients above, how many were treated for Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD)?

- Ranibizumab
- Bevacizumab
- Aflibercept
- Fluocinolone
- Dexamethasone

A3 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

Previous request 673-1920

Q1 How many patients with cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma have you treated [eg surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy] in the past 3 months?

A1 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

Q2 How many adult patients with metastatic or locally advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma have you treated [eg surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy] in the past 3 months?

A2 As answer 1

Q3 Of these how many are not candidates for curative surgery or curative radiation?

A3 As answer 1

Q4 In the past 3 months, how many adult patients with metastatic or locally advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma who are not candidates for curative surgery or curative radiation have you treated with the following;

- **Libtayo (cemiplimab)**
- **Non curative surgery only**
- **Non curative surgery + chemotherapy***
- **Non curative surgery + radiotherapy**
- **Non curative surgery + chemotherapy* + radiotherapy**
- **Chemotherapy* only**
- **Chemotherapy* + radiotherapy**
- **Non curative radiotherapy only**
- **No treatment**
- **Palliative Care / Best Supportive care**
- **Other [please state]**

***chemotherapy such as cisplatin, doxorubicin, 5-fluorouracil (5-FU), capecitabine, topotecan, or etoposide**

A4 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.

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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.

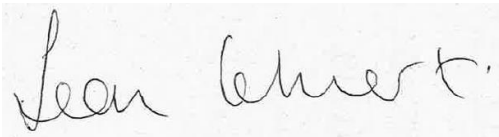
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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