



Royal Stoke University Hospital

Data, Security and Protection

Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-219

Date: 7th October 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 9th September 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding no fixed abode.

As 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 1-10 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*

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 questions 1 and 3 we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 Under the Freedom of Information Act I wish to request the following information.

- 1. Please provide the total number of A&E attendances by patients of No Fixed Abode for each of the financial years from 2009/10 to 2019/20.**

A1 Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on recording of no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not. Section 12 exemption as detailed above)

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of attendance.

Also please note these are attendances and **NOT** unique patients as a patient may attend multiple times.

Fin Year	AE Attendances
2018/19	310
2019/20	449
Grand Total	759

Q2 Please provide the total number of hospital admissions by patients of No Fixed Abode for each of the same financial years.

A2 Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on recording no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not. Section 12 exemption as detailed above)

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of admission. Also please note these are admissions and **NOT** unique patients as a patient may be admitted multiple times.

Fin Year	Admissions
2018	116
2019	187
Grand Total	303

Q3 Please provide the total annual bed days for these patients of No Fixed Abode (totals should be provided as a sum of all patients over the whole financial year, not broken down by individual patients).

A3 Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on recording no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not. Section 12 exemption as detailed above)

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of admission. Also please note these are admissions and NOT unique patients as a patient may be admitted multiple times.

Fin Year	Bed Days
2018	483
2019	729
Grand Total	1212

Q4 Please provide the number of long-stay patients of no fixed abode for the same financial years and the length of each stay. (Long stay is defined by the NHS as 21 days or longer).

A4 Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on recording no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not. (Section 12 exemption as detailed above)

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of admission. Also please note these are the admissions whose LOS \geq 21 days and **NOT** unique patients as a patient may be admitted multiple times.

Fin Year	Number of Admissions where LOS \geq 21 days
2018	9
2019	8
Grand Total	17

Q5 Please provide the number of patients attending or admitted to hospital of No Fixed Abode (for each of the same financial years) categorised or marked with a hepatitis C infection code.

A5 Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on recording no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not. Section 12 exemption as detailed above)

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of admission. Also please note these are admissions and **NOT** unique patients as a patient may be admitted multiple times.

Please note we do not know the reason why a patient was admitted as this is not recorded on Medway, the below information relates to the number of admissions where the patient postcode was ZZ99 3VZ and that they had the following clinical coding applied to their inpatient stay B171 & B182 (this identifies if the patient has hepatitis C at the time of their admission). It does not mean this is the reason for the admission.

Fin Year	Total Number of Admissions
2018	5
2019	34
Grand Total	39

Q6 Please provide the number of patients attending or admitted to hospital of No Fixed Abode (for each of the same financial years) categorised or marked with a hepatitis B infection code.

A6 Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on recording no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not. Section 12 exemption as detailed above)

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of admission. Also please note these are admissions and **NOT** unique patients as a patient may be admitted multiple times.

Please note we do not know the reason why a patient was admitted as this is not recorded on Medway, the below information relates to the number of admissions where the patient postcode was ZZ99 3VZ and that they had the following clinical coding applied to their inpatient stay B160-9, B180 & B181 (this identifies if the patient has hepatitis B at the time of their admission). It does not mean this is the reason for the admission.

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.

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

Fin Year	Total Number of Admissions
2018	0
2019	<5

Q7 Please provide the number of patients attending or admitted to hospital of No Fixed Abode (for each of the same financial years) categorised or marked with a self-poisoning or self-harm code.

A7 Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on recording no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not. Section 12 exemption as detailed above)

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of admission. Also please note these are admissions and **NOT** unique patients as a patient may be admitted multiple times.

Please note we do not know the reason why a patient was admitted as this is not recorded on Medway, the below information relates to the number of admissions where the patient

postcode was_ZZ99 3VZ and that they had the following clinical coding applied to their inpatient stay X60-X69 and X70-X84 (this identifies if the patient had self-poisoned or self-harmed at the time of their admission). It does not mean this is the reason for the admission.

Fin Year	Total Number of Admissions
2018	24
2019	34
Grand Total	58

- Q8 Please provide the number of patients attending or admitted to hospital of No Fixed Abode (for each of the same financial years) categorised or marked with: ‘drug related mental and behavioural disorders, poisoning by drug misuse or admissions where drug related mental and behavioural disorders were a factor. If your Trust does not use these NHS England measures – please supply figures for your own drug misuse codes or labels.**
- A8 Section 12 exemption, as detailed above
- Q9 Please provide the number of patients attending or admitted to hospital of No Fixed Abode (for each of the same financial years) categorised or marked with a latent tuberculosis infection, or other tuberculosis, code.**
- A9 As answer 8
- Q10 Since October 2018 how many times have referrals to local authorities been made under the Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) for patients identified as experiencing homelessness, or being at risk of homelessness within the next 56 days.**
- A10 The current referral process is electronic, and the number of referrals made is not captured through this system as it is external. Staff will make a referral to the relevant authority based on where they wish to reside so there is not one central pint to obtain this information. Whilst confirmation of a referral may be written in a patients note it would require all notes being reviewed to find this information- Section 12 exemption (*cost of compliance excessive*) as detailed above
- Q11 Does the Trust have formal admission and discharge policies in place to ensure homeless people are identified on admission, and that the discharge of homeless people should be notified to relevant primary health care and homelessness services?**
- A11 A policy / guidelines is in development, but the staff on the wards have information on where referrals are to go
- Q12 Please confirm whether your Trust has a Pathway team (GP-led in hospital management of homeless patients).**
- A12 We do not have a pathway team in the Trust

Q13 Please confirm whether your Trust has an alternative (non-Pathway model) team dedicated to co-ordinating the care/discharge/further needs outside the hospital of homeless patients. Please give the team name and describe its function

A13 As answer 12

*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.

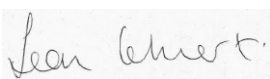
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager