

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-102

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

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding pathways

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

**The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

**However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.**

**We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.**

**The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Please can you send me your biologic pathways for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis? Can you also please clarify what is the maximum number of biologics that you would commission for patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis before an IFR needs to be submitted?**

**We were directed by Cannock Chase CCG, East Staffordshire CCG, North Staffordshire CCG, South East Staffordshire CCG, Stafford and Surround CCG and Stoke on Trent CCG to contact you.**

A1 UHNM responded to your FOI on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Ref 076-2021 this is substantially identical. In accordance with Section 14 (2) of the FOI Act, Where a public authority has previously complied with a request for information which was made by any person, it is not obliged to comply with a subsequent identical or substantially similar request from that person unless a

reasonable interval has elapsed between compliance with the previous request and the making of the current request.

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

**Q2 Which CCG does this Trust fall under?**

A2 UHNM falls under the following CCG's  
North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Email: [foi.northstaffordshireccg@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.northstaffordshireccg@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk)

Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commission Group  
Email: [foi.StokeonTrentCCG@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.StokeonTrentCCG@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk)

\*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](http://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,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**