



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-399

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

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (received into our office 8<sup>th</sup> October) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding elderly wards.

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 is 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 questions 1 and 2 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 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 My question relates to the elderly.**

**Across the Trust; please specify the number of wards, providing elderly/geriatric care, general old age medicine, or any such equivalent accommodating 20 beds or more.**

A1 UHNM has five wards providing elderly/geriatric care, general old age medicine, or any such equivalent accommodating 20 beds or more

**Q2 For such wards, where admission rate, over the period April 2017-March 2018, inclusive, had not, or had only, by common sense standards, slightly decreased, by comparison with the period April 2016- March 2017 inclusive:**

**Please specify how many returned fewer numbers of deaths between April 2017-March 2018 inclusive than between April 2016- March 2017 inclusive.**

A2 Please see below:

	2016/17	2017/18
Total Discharges	2789	2676
Total Deaths	415	499

**Q3 For such wards, where admission rates, over the period April 2017- March 2018, inclusive, had not, or had only by common sense standards, slightly decreased, by comparison with the period April 2016 – March 2017 inclusive.**

**Please specify on how many between April 2016- March 2017, inclusive fewer patients were given palliative care referral than between April 2016-March 2017 inclusive.**

**To clarify, this would exclude patients arriving with existing referrals**

A3 Information not held, however please note that a patient may pass through emergency portals and several wards including the elderly care wards. We can't link the referrals to patients staying on these wards, only to the point they were referred. For example the patient could be referred to us while in ED then transfer to one of these wards but the referral would be linked to ED, not the ward. In order to extrapolate this information it would take longer than the 18 hours allowed by the FOI Act: section 12 exemption as detailed above.

\*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.

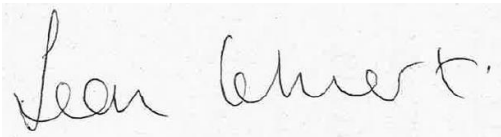
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**