

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-741

Date: 17th March 2025

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 27th January 2025 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding talc pleurodesis procedure

Q1 I am requesting the records that shows how many people have had talc pleurodesis procedure within the last 4 years.

A1 The total of talc pleurodesis procedures was 150 procedures over the last 4 years.

Q2 What the conditions the patients had and how long they lived after this procedure. I'm interested in people who had asthma, COPD, anxiety and metastatic lung cancer stage 4, also CKD

A2 As we do not record co-morbidities on our Clinical Information System, we are unable to identify the cohort of patients mentioned in the question. Unfortunately, we do not hold the reason why a person died and if a procedure contributed to extending the life of a person. This level of information is not recorded on the Clinical Information System and can only be obtained by manually reviewing patients notes. Section 12 exemption as detailed below.

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 this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in health/death records (150 patient 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*

*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 relating to the response please 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,



Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records
Data Protection Officer

Appendix

On the same day we contacted you via email with the following
To continue with your request we require clarification what you mean by 'I am requesting the records?
Are you asking for patient records with this condition or the total number of inpatients?

On 28th January 2025 you replied via email with the following two responses.

*"I want only the people who had COPD, asthma, lung cancer and CKD please.
Also I would like to know if these people had sepsis due to the talc procedure.
I want to know what the survival rate was with people after they had this talc pleurodesis procedure"*

2nd clarification

*"I'm not sure if you're for Royal stoke university hospital so I just wanted to clarify I want it from there.
Especially ward 113 please"*

We responded with.

You put your FOI request into the University Hospitals of North Midlands, which includes the Royal Stoke Hospital.

Please can you confirm if you are only interested in the Royal and only for ward 113?

In addition, please clarify that you are NOT asking for the records of patients with this condition and just the number of patients who may have had this?

On 29th January 2025 you replied via email with.

'yes just the number of patients not the patients themselves thankyou. I want all of Royal stoke hospital who have performed this procedure including ward 113 please

.

On 13th February 2025 you contacted us via email with the following.

'I want the information sent by post please. It's better for me this way'

We replied via email with:

I have been asked to contact you to seek clarification on your request. Your request states

" I want the information sent by post please. It's better for me this way"

To continue with your request we require clarification what is your address.

On 24th February 2025 you replied via email with your address.