



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-592

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

Date: 23rd April 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 24th March 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid-19

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

On 24th March 2021 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on what you mean by diagnosed, do you actually mean diagnosed or tested positive for Covid-19?

On the same day you replied via email with:
"I mean 'tested positive'

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.

Q1 The number of instances where an inpatient at the Trust was diagnosed with covid-19, where the covid-19 diagnosis was made 15 days or more after admission (the common definition for 'definitely' nosocomial), in each month since and including March 2020.

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding covid-19, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because UHNM has been answering Covid-19 related FOI requests since March 2020 all can be found via the Trust's public website at the following link:

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

The Trust has discussed covid-19 at Board meetings: link found here:

<https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/our-board/trust-board-papers/>

Note:

We are counting COVID-19 deaths as per the national guidance. The figure, and a description of the definition we are using, are published daily and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

In addition: the following links also hold this information

The link to the Trust level data is available in the daily spread sheet in the section titled 'COVID-19 all announced deaths'.

NHS England has the following below:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath>

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19/latestinsights>

Q2 The number of deaths of patients of the Trust who had been diagnosed with covid-19, where the covid-19 diagnoses had been made 15 days or more after hospital admission (the common definition for 'definitely' nosocomial), in each month since and including March 2020. Please include instances only where the patient's death occurred while they were inpatients at the Trust.

A2 As answer 1

Q3 The number of instances where an inpatient at the Trust was diagnosed with covid-19, where the covid-19 diagnosis was made 8-15 days after admission (the common definition for 'probable' nosocomial), in each month since and including March 2020.

A3 As answer 1

Q4 The number of deaths of patients of the Trust who had been diagnosed with covid-19, where the covid-19 diagnoses had been made between 8 and 15 days or more after hospital admission (the common definition for 'probable' nosocomial), in each month since and including March 2020. Please include instances only where the patient's death occurred while they were inpatients at the Trust.

A4 As answer 1

Q5 Any additional summary analysis/reports the Trust has carried out itself into the number of deaths of patients following a covid-19 infection which was likely or definite to be nosocomial.

A5 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding the above, but feel this information is exempt under section 22: *Information for future publication*. Available in the Trust Board papers at the following link: April 2021
<https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/our-board/>

Q6 Please also provide, with suitable redactions, any serious incident reviews or corporate reviews into any of these deaths.

Under the act you have 20 working days to respond, giving a deadline of 14 April.

A6 As answer 5

*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.

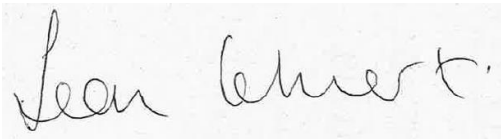
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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