



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-592

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

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 25th November 2024 sent to the PALs team requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding wet AMD

**Q1 At the end of every wet AMD injection, what proportion of patients receive an immediate appointment for their next injection versus what proportion have to wait until additional capacity is available (e.g. after 2-3 days)?**

A1 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 records. We are unable to keep any audit data on our WET AMD patients. Our injection clinics are mixed; we inject WET AMD, RVO, myopic CNV, pre surgery and DMO patients on any session. We do approximately 13 sessions a week which equates to over 250 patients a week. 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*

**Q2 Number of wet AMD patients and injections being treated in your Trust over the last three financial years seen (ending March)?**

A2 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 records. We are unable to keep any audit data on our WET AMD patients. Our injection clinics are mixed; we inject WET AMD, RVO, myopic CNV, pre surgery and DMO patients on any session. We do approximately 13 sessions a week which equates to over 250 patients a week. In order to confirm whether this information is held we

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**Q3 Number of wet AMD patients and injections being outsourced to each private provider (e.g. SpaMedica, NewMedica, Optegra, Practice Plus Group, Circle, Ramsay, Spire, etc.) over the last three financial years (ending March)? Please segment the injections by year and by private provider**

A3 No. We do not outsource any of our injections to a private source.

\*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).

Yours,



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