



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-499

Date: 4th December 2018

Tel: 01782 676474

Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 20th November 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding was there an identified risk of infection to patients at Royal Stoke University Hospital.

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 Between 28 November 2016 – 1 December 2016 (inclusive), was there an identified risk of infection to patients at Royal Stoke University Hospital. If so, what organisms were identified and how many people were affected? Were any patients quarantined during this time and, if so, how many?

A1 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can confirm that there were less than five patients listed in the mandatory reporting alert for an infection of the organism Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE).

Q2 More specifically, between 28 November 2016 – 1 December 2016 (inclusive), was there any identified risk of infection within the Royal Stokes Cardiology Department, Coronary Care Unit and/or the Trauma & Orthopaedic Department. Relatedly, were any patients quarantined during this time and what organisms had been identified as causing the risk of infection?

A2 As answer 1, However, please note, there was not any particular identified risk of infection within the Royal Stokes Cardiology Department, Coronary Care Unit and/or the Trauma and Orthopaedic Department. Patients are routinely isolated (but not quarantined) based on suspected infection or an alert organism identified on screening (e.g. MRSA).

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance