



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-572

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 10th January 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Homelessness

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 Please find below a freedom of information request relating to people experiencing homelessness, as well as substance use within your NHS Trust.**

**1. Please provide the total number of A&E attendances by patients of No Fixed Abode/Address for each of the financial years from 2011/12 to 2021/2022.**

A1 Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on the recording of no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not.

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of attendance.

Also please note these are attendances NOT unique patients as a patient may attend multiple times.

Fin Year	Attendances
2018/19	313
2019/20	455
2020/21	429
2021/22	422
2022/23	438
Grand Total	2057

**Q2 Please also provide the number of these individuals (as outlined in Q1) who were admitted with a primary/secondary diagnosis of drug poisoning.**

A2 Please note that our ICD-10 reference book documents the below guidance about poisoning  
Poisoning can also be described as:

- intoxication
- overdose
- therapeutic misadventure
- toxic effect/toxicity
- wrong dosage given or taken
- wrong substance given or taken.

Therefore the following ICD10 codes have been used to identify someone who has attended ED due to drug poisoning

T36-T50 Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances

T51-T65 Toxic effects of substances chiefly non medicinal as to source

Also to reiterate data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on the recording of no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not. 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 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*

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of attendance.

Also please note these are attendances NOT unique patients as a patient may attend multiple times.

Fin Year	Attendances
2018/19	25
2019/20	36
2020/21	34
2021/22	32
2022/23	24
Grand Total	151

**Q3 Please provide the total number of hospital admissions by patients of No Fixed Abode/Address for each of the same financial years.**

A3 To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of attendance. Prior September 2018, there was no formal procedure on the recording of no fixed abode patients so there is limited data as the NFA postcode was not routinely used.

Also please note these are the number of admissions NOT unique patients as a patient may be admitted multiple times.

Fin Year	Admissions
2011/12	11
2013/14	27
2014/15	29
2015/16	29
2016/17	42
2017/18	157
2018/19	255
2019/20	191
2020/21	147
2021/22	112
2022/23	109
Grand Total	1109

**Q4 Please also provide the number of these individuals (as outlined in Q3) who were admitted with a primary/secondary diagnosis of drug poisoning.**

A4 Please note that our ICD-10 reference book documents the below guidance about poisoning  
Poisoning can also be described as:

- intoxication
- overdose
- therapeutic misadventure
- toxic effect/toxicity
- wrong dosage given or taken
- wrong substance given or taken.

Therefore the following ICD10 codes have been used to identify someone who has attended ED due to drug poisoning

T36-T50 Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances  
T51-T65 Toxic effects of substances chiefly non medicinal as to source

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patients address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of attendance. Prior September 2018, there was no formal procedure on the recording of no fixed abode patients so there is limited data as the NFA postcode was not routinely used.

Also please note these are the number of admissions NOT unique patients as a patient may be admitted multiple times.

Fin Year	Admissions
2011/12	1
2013/14	4
2014/15	4
2015/16	5
2016/17	10
2017/18	35
2018/19	52
2019/20	31
2020/21	16
2021/22	16
2022/23	5
Grand Total	179

\*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 671612.

Yours,



**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records