



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-291

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

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding GP referrals.

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 your questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual 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*

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 can you provide me with a monthly breakdown of GP referrals to UHNM between October 1, 2020 and October 1, 2018?**

**I would like a breakdown of why each patient was referred to UNHM displayed per patient, per month in a spread sheet format.**

A1 At UHNM we do not hold on our reporting system “Medway” the reason why a person has been referred, in order to collate this information all patients notes would need to be checked to ascertain which specialty they have been referred to: - section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.

This information may be held by the commissioners. You may wish to approach the Clinical Commissioning Groups to see if they hold further information. They can be contacted as follows:

North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Email: [foi.northstaffordshireccg@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.northstaffordshireccg@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk)

Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commission Group



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

\*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.

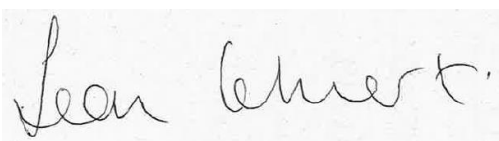
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Data, Security & Protection Manager

