



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

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

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-221

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 21st July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding bariatric surgery.

**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 the same day we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification

Q1a- please can we clarify what you mean by Primary bariatric surgery operations, with primary been the reason why we are seeking clarification, and what procedures you are classing as a bariatric surgery operation

Q2 1b - please can we clarify what you mean here – are you after the mean average time from the day they were admitted (admission day) to the day they have the surgery?

You replied via email with:

*'In response to query 1 – by primary we mean any bariatric weight loss procedure that wasn't corrective from a previous one. So it was their first time getting surgery with view for weight loss. This would include gastric band, gastric bypass, gastric balloon (if applicable) and a sleeve gastrectomy.*

*In response to query 2 – the mean wait time annually for patients from the date they were referred to Tier 4 services to undergoing surgery itself.'*



As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UJNM) 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 primary bariatric surgery operations\* performed by financial year, from 2017/18 to 2021/22**  
(\*including operations in private hospitals where these were used to provide additional capacity for the NHS)

A1 Data from Careflow only. For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

And where the admitting TFC = 106 (upper GI) and the following clinical coding has been applied – ICD10 E66 (obesity coding) plus one of the following OPCS 10 coding G281,G301,G302,G304,G321,G331,G282,G283,G284,G285,G303,G481,G485,G716.

We have to look for the Obesity coding as some of the above procedures can be used to treat other conditions e.g. Cancer.

Fin Years	Total
2017/18	269
2018/19	356
2019/20	301
2020/21	92
2021/22	158

**Q2 The mean average wait from admission to Tier 4 services to surgery, by financial year, from 2017/18 to 2021/22.**

A2 Using the 1176 patients from Q1 – below is the average mean waiting time of these patients from decision to admit to the actual admission for the procedure.

Fin Years	Average Weeks from DTA to Admission
2017/18	13
2018/19	7
2019/20	20
2020/21	33
2021/22	73

**Q3 How many patients are on your bariatric surgery RTT (referral to treatment) waiting list at present?**

- **And at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.**

A3 We are unable to break this figure down further to just bariatric surgery, all patient notes would need to be viewed- 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 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 individual 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 individual 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*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

- Q4 The number of people enrolled within your Tier 3 weight management services:**
- **At present,**
  - **And at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.**

A4 We do not do tier 3 services.

- Q5 The number of people enrolled within your Tier 4 services:**
- **At present,**
  - **And at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.**

A5 To enable us to identify bariatric referrals we have had to look for “first booked appointments” into specific clinics. Below are the clinics that were used.

- Bariatric-N
- Bariatric-NNVC
- Bariatric-NCNS
- Bariatric-NNVCCO
- Bariatric-NNCO
- Bariatric-NNVCCO
- Bariatric-NNCH

Calendar Year	Number of Referrals
2017	371
2018	420
2019	521
2020	320
2021	99

2022	36
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\*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,



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

*L Carlisle*

Leah Carlisle  
Head of Data, Security & Protection/ Data Protection Officer

