



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-491

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 6th December 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 17th November 2019 (received into our office 18th November) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding suicide risk assessments.

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 questions 5 and 6 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*

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 if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 Which suicide risk assessments do you use at your Trust?

A1 At UHNM the Emergency Department have adapted their own Mental Health Assessment form which includes a suicide risk screen.

Q2 What training do your staff undertake in using those suicide risk assessments?

A2 Junior doctors receive training (raising awareness of the need to consider risk of further suicide attempt and a talk through the 'aide memoir' in the Mental Health documentation booklet at their induction day. They are made aware that this risk assessment does not replace their clinical judgement and that they can still refer on to Mental Health Liaison Team if they are

concerned. In addition the order comms (referral system) requires staff to complete another risk stratification.

Q3 What training does your staff have in assessing risk of suicide in general?

A3 All clinical staff are required to undertake Mental Health Awareness level 1 training; this includes signs & symptoms that staff should observe for to alert them of a person's increased risk of suicide followed by what they need to do and risk management planning.

Q4 What is the procedure your staff follows when they identify a person at risk of suicide?

A4 Procedure followed is dependent on risk rating i.e. low risk, medium risk and high risk. Actions to take are identified in the risk assessment matrix.

Q5 How many people have been assessed for risk of suicide between 2012 and 2020, if possible by month and department?

A5 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above- please also note that information would not be held for 2020

Q6 How many people were identified as at risk of suicide between 2012 and 2020, if possible by month and department?

A6 As answer 5

*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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager