



**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 2020/21-422

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 sent to our Ministries team requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid 19.

On our acknowledgment we advised you that all FOI requests should be sent to the following email address to ensure a prompt response. [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

On 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 we contacted you via email as UHNM had received a number of identical requests that we suspected had come from the same person, therefore under the FOI we required proof of identity.

The FOI Act clearly states that if we suspect that the request has come from a Pseudonym we are entitled to request proof of the person's identity, as provision of a Pseudonym invalidates a request, therefore please can you provide a photo copy of your driver's licence or other official document that validates your identity.

Please note:

UHNM's request for identification is in compliance with the Information Commissioner guidance "Recognising a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (section 8) Version 1.2". We would like to draw your attention to paragraphs 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 22 and 35 of this guidance. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/receiving-a-request/> and "What makes a valid request?"

Therefore we are requesting this from you as this appears not to be the first request you have made and the request has other characteristics that might suggest you are working on behalf of a company/ corporate body.

If you are making the request on behalf of a company/corporate body as an employee, then you should declare its name in your request and this will enable us to consider the request's validity.

On the same day you replied via email with proof of your identity and the following statement:

*"I'm not asking for information on behalf of anyone but myself, I'm concerned for my family and myself. I just want answers to my questions, because I don't seem to be getting the data I need from mainstream media or NHS websites. I've been doing research into Covid and that's another reason I want the foi."*

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 question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/death records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health/death 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/death 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 (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 I'm doing some research regarding Covid 19.**

**Under the freedom of information act I would like you to supply me with the following information.**

**How many people have died of Covid 19 alone as in died of just Covid.**

**I can see people who have died of Covid within 28 days of positive test on your website so they could of died of other courses.**

**I would like to know the exact figure from the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 to the present day thank you.**

**A1** Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above, however note:

We are counting COVID-19 deaths as per the national guidance. The figure, and a description of the definition we are using, are published daily and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

The link to the Trust level data is available in the daily spread sheet in the section titled 'COVID-19 all announced deaths'.

NHS England has the following below:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

Please note that we are providing these links under Section 21 of the FOI Act – '*Information reasonably accessible to the applicant via other means*'.

\*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.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

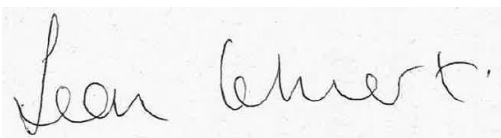
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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