

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-195

Date: 16th August 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 1st July 2021 (received into our office 2nd July) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding waiting list.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 tell me how many patients have been removed from waiting lists at the Trust because they have died, for each of the following years?

- a) 2021 to date
- b) 2020
- c) 2019
- d) 2018
- e) 2017

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding how many patients have been removed from waiting lists, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: FOI ref 037-2122

<http://www.uhm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

- a) 2021 to date - 3190
- b) 2020- exempt
- c) 2019 - exempt
- d) 2018 - exempt
- e) 2017 - 4145

Q2 Please also tell me whether the trust has any policies to limit the number of new referrals for any of the following procedures:

- a) Hernia repair
- b) Cataract surgery
- c) Hip and knee replacements

A2 See below:

- a) There are no policies limiting the number of referrals, but the Trust follows the Commissioning Policy for Excluded and Restricted Procedures for decision making in treatment
- b) For Cataract Surgery, there are no current restrictions / limitations to the number of referrals that the Trust receives.
- c) The Trauma Directorate do not have any policies limiting the number of referrals for any procedures; there is no limit to the number of Hip and Knee replacement referrals.

Q3 If yes to question 2, please could you provide more details and also let me know when these policies came into place?

A3 Not applicable

*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.

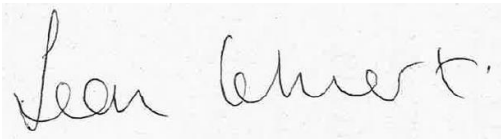
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager