



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-256

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

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

Stacey McMaster  
[Stacey@dentalhealth.org](mailto:Stacey@dentalhealth.org)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 17th July 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding mouth cancer

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 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following data:**

**The number of oral cancer referrals received by hospitals in your Trust between January 2017 and the most recent completed month that is available (most likely June 2024). I also request this data be presented as monthly figures.**

A1 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 for oral cancer referrals are not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records (we receive on average around 280 head & neck referrals each month) 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*

Refer to the attached spreadsheet for head and neck referrals total

\*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).

Yours,



**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records