

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-382

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

Date: 21st October 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 30th September 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding cataract procedures.

On 2nd October you emailed us with a further two requests all on the same subject, we emailed you to inform you that UHNM would be aggregating all three requests into one response. Please note the following below:

The section 12 exemption states:

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from:

- The same person or
- People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.

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 How many cataract procedures did you do in 2018 and what were the rates of posterior capsular rupture?

A1 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers. Please see below:

- Number of Cataract procedures = 2726 undertaken during 2018
- Number of patients who had Posterior Capsular Rupture ICD10 Coding applied to record <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed

Q2 Number of patients waiting for a cataract surgery, by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19

A2 UHNM does not hold previous waiting lists as there is no requirement for us to do so. As waiting lists are a picture of what is happening at this moment in time we are unable to recreate

this information as time has passed. Also, we do not hold waiting list information to specific procedures, just at specialty level.

Q3 Number of patients waiting over 10 weeks for a cataract surgery, by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19

A3 As answer 2

Q4 Number of patients waiting over 18 weeks for a cataract surgery, by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19

A4 As answer 2

Q5 Referral-to-Treatment time for cataract surgery (C71 to C77), by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19

A5 As answer 2

Q6 Average time waited before a first appointment with an ophthalmologist as a new patient, by month or by year for FY17, FY18 and FY19

A6 Please see below:

- FY 2016/17 = 6wks
- FY 2017/18 = 8wks
- FY 2018/19 = 7wks

*To collate this information we have looked at the outpatient activity and calculated the average waiting time for the year by calculating the time waited from the referral date to the appointment date.

Q7 Number of new patients waiting for over 10 weeks for a first appointment with an ophthalmologist as a new patient, by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19

A7 Please see below:

- FY 2016/17 = 2888 patients
- FY 2017/18 = 3458 patients
- FY 2018/19 = 4228 patients

*To obtain this information we have looked at the activity and calculated from the referral date to the appointment date the patient had waited to their appointment and counted up those who have waited over 10 weeks (11+).

Q8 Number of new patients waiting for over 18 weeks for a first appointment with an ophthalmologist as a new patient, by month or by year for FY17, FY18, and FY19

A8 Please see below:

- FY 2016/17 = 685 patients
- FY 2017/18 = 1386 patients
- FY 2018/19 = 1527 patients

*To obtain this information we have looked at the activity and calculated from the referral date to the appointment date the time the patient had waited to their appointment and counted up those who have waited over 18 weeks (19+).

*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.

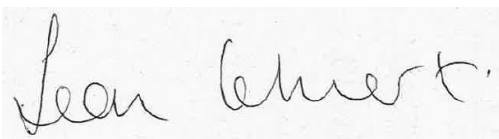
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager

