



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-274

Date: 27th October 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 7th October 2020 (received into our office 8th October requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding prostate cancer.

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 1 and 2 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 individual 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 individual 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 What is the most recent figure for the average waiting time for treatment following a prostate cancer diagnosis?

Please specify when this was for (i.e. end of August 2020).

If possible, can answers be broken down into cancer stages?

A1 UHNM has reviewed the 31 Day First Treatment standard for prostate cancer patients receiving first definitive treatment in August the average waiting time from DTT (Decision to Treat) to Treatment was 0 days, this is because most of these patients were commenced on hormones or active monitoring and so the DTT and Treatment dates would be the same date.

It is not possible to break this data down into Cancer Stage – section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.

Q2 I would also like to know the average waiting times for treatment following a prostate cancer diagnosis for

- 2019
- 2018
- 2017
- 2016
- 2015.

Again, if possible can answers be broken down into cancer stages?

A2 UHNM has reviewed the 31 Day First Treatment standard for prostate cancer patients receiving first definitive treatment during the past 5 years the average waiting time from DTT (Decision to treat) to Treatment is shown below.

- 2019 = 3.7 days
- 2018 = 4.5 days
- 2017 = 3.6 days
- 2016 = 2.0 days
- 2015 = 2.3 days

These figures are low because the majority of first treatments for prostate cancer are hormones or active monitoring and so the DTT and Treatment dates would be the same date. It is not possible to break this data down into Cancer Stage – section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.

Q3 How many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in your Trust over the past 12 months?

Please could I have this in a month to month breakdown?

A3 Please see below:

- September 2019 = 41
- October 2019 = 39
- November 2019 = 41
- December 2019 = 55
- January 2020 = 52
- February 2020 = 43
- March 2020 = 58
- April 2020 = 11
- May 2020 = 12
- June 2020 = 28
- July 2020 = 44
- August 2020 = 32

Q4 For the past five years running, how many men each year have been diagnosed with prostate cancer?

A monthly breakdown of diagnoses from 2015 up to 2020 would be greatly appreciated.

A4 Please see below:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	31	42	58	33	52
February	27	39	51	32	47
March	33	36	43	24	46
April	39	41	34	45	35
May	22	25	29	50	57
June	26	43	35	45	45
July	29	60	53	32	49
August	30	47	42	28	26
September	31	33	25	37	41
October	45	46	48	31	39
November	45	43	47	48	41
December	33	43	33	43	55
Grand Total	391	498	498	448	533

*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.

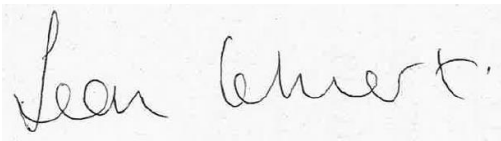
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager