



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-193

Date: 28th July 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 30th June 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid.

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 question 1 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 question 2 we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

On 6th July 2021 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:
We require clarification on if you meant Hospital Acquired Covid19 Infections in Q2 (as referred to in Q1) or if you mean ALL hospital acquired infections in Q2

On 13th July 2021 you replied via email with the following:
'In Q2 I meant Hospital Acquired Covid-19 infections'.

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 Please can you tell me how many cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19 the Trust has had since 1st March 2020 to the present day? Please break this down by probable and definite nosocomial infections if this data is available.

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above:

Q2 Please also give me the number of deaths from hospital acquired infections (probable and definite cases). If you are able please state, in each case, if you have informed the patient's relative that it was a hospital acquired infection?

A2 See below:
From 1st March 2020:

deceased patients who tested positive for Covid 19, 8 to 14 days from admission to positive test: 167 (probable)

deceased patients who tested positive for Covid19, 15 days+ from admission to positive test: 115 (definite)

Information is not held on whether a patient's relative was informed if it was a hospital acquired infection

*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.

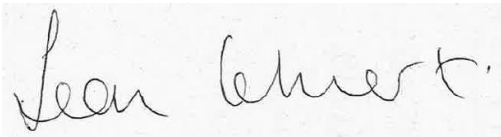
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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