



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-283

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

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding discharge summaries.

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 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 questions 1 and 3 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 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 I'm looking into secondary care discharge letters and referrals and would like a few questions to be answered under the Freedom of Information Act.**

**Please could you provide answers to each separate question covering the following time periods?**

- The first covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015;
- The second covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016;
- The third covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017;
- The fourth covering the time period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

1. For each time period, how many discharge summaries were sent to GP practices after 24 hours of a discharge of a patient? i.e how many discharge summaries were delayed in sending to GPs? This count for outpatient, inpatient, day case and A&E care.

A1 Please see below: The below information only relates to letters produced following an outpatient attendance.

Cal Year	No. Letters > 24hrs
2015	270,012
2016	288,334
2017	355,316
2018	358,617

Please see below for Over 24hrs to \*signed\* - Discharge summaries.

Dataset	Year	No of Records
In-patient	2015	18660
in-patient	2016	20601
in-patient	2017	24700
in-patient	2018	24877
A&E	2015	0
A&E	2016	0
A&E	2017	1058
A&E	2018	6397

- Q2 For each time period, how many discharge summaries included planned and requested actions for GPs?

A2 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

- Q3 How many consultant to consultant (C2C) referrals were made in each time period?

A3 Please see below:

Cal Year	No. of C2C Referrals
2015	79,658
2016	111,800
2017	100,520
2018	99,838

\*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.

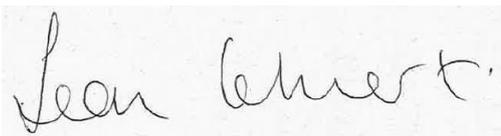
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**