

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-312

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

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding clinically assisted nutrition and hydration.

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 Please state the name of your Trust?**

A1 As per letter head.

**Q2 How many patients currently under your care are being kept alive with clinically assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH) that are in a persistent vegetative state or minimally conscious state?**

A2 Information not held as this cohort of patients do not receive coding until discharged from the Trust, however UHNM did a search on the following codes:

- G93.1 Anoxic brain damage, not elsewhere classified
- R40.2 Coma, unspecified

And we can report that we had no patients that fulfilled this criteria.

**Q3 a) How many patients from Q2 have been kept alive for 1 year or more?  
b) How many patients from Q2 have been kept alive for 3 years or more?  
c) How many patients from Q2 have been kept alive for 5 years or more?**

A3 As answer 2

**Q4 a) How much money has your Trust spend on the patients from Q2 in the years;  
2015 - 2016  
2016 - 2017  
2017 - 2018  
b) How much money does your Trust spend per patient (from Q2) on average?**

A4 Not applicable

**Q5 How many next of kin of patients from Q2 have asked for the CANH to be stopped and their loved ones been moved into palliative care?**

A5 Not applicable

Q6 a) In how many patients cases, have you been in a legal battle, whether mediation or court, because next of kin wanted to stop CANH in the last 5 years?

b) What has been the financial cost of these legal battles/mediations?

A6 None.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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,



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**

