



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-015

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

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Tel: 01782 676474  
Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing in response to your email dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding laparoscopic procedures.

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 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all 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 health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

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 remaining questions 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 the same day we contacted you via email as we required a timeframe for the information to be collated.

On 12th April 2018 you replied via email the following:

*“Can I please request information from 2016 - 2017 calendar year”*

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 How many gynaecologists within your organisation perform laparoscopic procedures requiring morcellation?**

A1 The Trust has three gynaecologists who perform laparoscopic procedures requiring morcellation.

**Q2 How many power morcellators do you purchase per annum for gynaecology?**

A2 20

**Q3 How many power morcellators do you use in gynaecology per annum?**

A3 As answer 2

**Q4 How many laparoscopic hysterectomies requiring morcellation do you perform annually?**

A4 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

**Q5 How many laparoscopic myomectomies requiring morcellation do you perform annually**

A5 As answer 4

**Q6 For patients requiring morcellation, do you routinely perform pre-operative MRI?**

A6 Information not held

**Q7 For patients requiring morcellation, do you routinely perform pre-operative endometrial sampling/biopsy?**

A7 Information not held

**Q8 During the consent process, do you specifically consent for power morcellation in gynaecology?**

A8 Information not held

**Q9 During the consent process, what risk of inadvertent leiomyosarcoma do you quote during hysterectomies/myomectomies for benign fibroids?**

A9 As answer 4

**Q10 During the consent process, what risk do quote for spread of inadvertent leiomyosarcoma from power morcellation?**

A10 As answer 4

**Q11 Has your organisation ever encountered inadvertent leiomyosarcoma following hysterectomy or myomectomy for presumed benign indications? If so, how many?**

A11 As answer 4

**Q12 Do you have information leaflet about morcellation in gynaecology?**

A12 No, however we are in the process of developing one.

**Q13 What audit procedures do you have in place for gynaecologists participating in power morcellation?**

A13 Information not held

\*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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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.

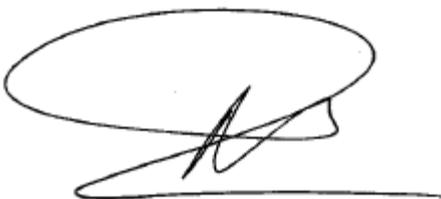
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Mojgan Casillas  
**Interim Information Governance Manager**