



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/203

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

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

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding routine provision of bisphosphonates to prevent the spread of breast cancer.

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 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions.**

**Does your Trust routinely provide bisphosphonates to postmenopausal women with primary breast cancer to reduce the risk of their cancer spreading to other parts of the body?**

A1 The Trust does routinely provide bisphosphonates to postmenopausal women with primary breast cancer to reduce the risk of their cancer spreading to other parts of the body

**Q2 If your Trust does routinely provide bisphosphonates to reduce the risk of primary breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body, but is not providing them for all postmenopausal women, how is eligibility defined? For example, women at increased risk of recurrence.**

A2 The Trust provides adjuvant zometa-bisphosphonates for high risk post-menopausal women who are node positive, grade 3, triple negative breast cancers.

**Q3 If your Trust does routinely provide bisphosphonates for postmenopausal women to reduce the risk of primary breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body, which bisphosphonates do you prescribe? For example, zoledronic acid, ibandronic acid, sodium clodronate.**

A3 The Trust routinely provides six monthly Zoledronic acid for three years.

**Q4 If your Trust does not routinely provide bisphosphonates for postmenopausal women to reduce the risk of primary breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body, what are your reasons for not doing so?**

A4 Not applicable.

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,



Leah Carlisle  
**Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance**