



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/229

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
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Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 3rd August 2018

Tel: 01782 676474
Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 18th July 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding inpatient paediatric units.

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 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 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 19th July 2018 we contacted you via email as we required a timeframe for the information to be collated.

On 27th July 2018 you replied via email the following:

“Please can we have the information based over a period of the last 12 months up to the date of which you received the request or the last financial year (whatever is easiest for you).”

On the same day following we contacted via email as we required further clarification on the following:

“Q1 please clarify whether you meant inpatient admissions in the last 12 months for paediatrics?

Q3 please clarify if this is current patients and whether this is all patients or just children who are medically complex

Q4 please clarify if this is all patients or those that are long stay (>30 days)

On the same day you replied via email the following;

With regards to your email request, I will answer next to each question if that's ok,

Q1 please clarify whether you meant inpatient **admissions** in the last 12 months for paediatrics? – Yes we would like to know how many paediatric patients have been admitted to your paediatric unit in the last 12 months

Q3 please clarify if this is **current** patients and whether this is **all patients** or just children who are medically complex- All patients please

Q4 please clarify if this is all patients or those that are long stay (>30 days)- All patients please”

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UJNM) 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 This FOI is regarding children who are medically complex (children with medical complexity or CMiC) we define these as children with a long term condition lasting greater than 12 months and requiring input from 2 or more medical teams.

This group of children often have a specialist feeding needs and are technology dependant. They may also have unresolved housing, immigration and care provision dilemmas. They may have extra family support needs due to parental capacity or illness. Coordinating clinical care for them can be a challenge.

What is your paediatric inpatient occupancy on your unit (0-18yrs)?

A1 For the period 2017/18, for patients aged between 0-17 (as per your clarification above and the Trust's reporting system) the number of admissions is 19100

Q2 How many of these would fit into the definition above?

A2 Section 12 exemption as detailed above.

Q3 How many long stays (>30days) paediatric patients do you have?

A3 The Trust currently has eight patients that have a stay longer than 30 days

Q4 How many of these patients are medically fit to be discharged?

A4 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the *Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. Personal information.* However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being less than 5.

Q5 Amongst your long stay paediatric population, are there any non-medical barriers to discharge? If so, what are the common reasons e.g. Housing, care provider allocation, training or social care support?

- A5 The barriers for discharge reasons vary, but they are mainly delays in setting up and recruiting to the care packages at home once the decision has been made to discharge. Housing can be an issue for some of the older children if alterations are required. Sometimes the only alternative is commissioning a bed in a Children's Hospice or similar however, that is often difficult to arrange.
- Q6 Who coordinates discharge planning for "CMiC" patient and how are they set up to do this e.g. specialist paediatric discharge nurse, CNS, adult discharge teams, support workers?**
- A6 We do not have a specific coordinator, but we have a ventilation team (2 nurses) who pick up all the complex patient discharges and coordinate the Multidisciplinary Team (MDTs)
- Q7 Do you have any links with charities when doing this work e.g. charity funded nursing positions, collaboration with charity workers?**
- A7 The Trust does not specifically have links to charities however we do work with the local hospice Donna Louise Trust and others such as Hope House in Shropshire as part of the MDT discussions
- Q8 Do you have specific paperwork for long stay "CMiC" patients e.g. hospital passports, patients held records, advanced care plans?**
- A8 The Trust has advanced card plans.

*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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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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance