



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-335

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

Date: 25th September 2018

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 31st August 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding pathology/ mortuaries.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because some of the information requested in your questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/death records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health/death 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/death 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 what we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame we can provide the following below.

On 11th September 2018 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on the following: Did you actually want a full list of all PM's by date or do you want a consolidated view? E.G.: xx number of PM's done in 2015 waited xx number of days, and xx waited xx more days etc. (Ordered by the year of PM).

On the same day you replied via email:
"Consolidated is fine, as long as it includes all the PMs carried out"

On 13th September 2018 we contacted you again via email as we required further clarification as to whether you wanted us to provide for public and defence PM's or just to provide the figures for standard PMs.

On the same day you replied via email the following:
"All PMs please"

On 14th September 2018 we contacted you via email as we required clarity on by the term pathologist are you asking for the number of consultants that do post mortems?

On 17th September 2018 you replied via email the following:

“Yes please “

As of 1st 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 can you tell me how many pathologists the Trust has employed in each year for the last 6 years?

A1 Please see below:

- 2013 = Total 10 (1 external pathologist)
- 2014 = Total 10 (1 external pathologist)
- 2015 = Total 11 (2 external pathologist)
- 2016 = Total 8 (2 external pathologist)
- 2017 = Total 8 (2 external pathologist)
- 2018 = Total 10 (2 external pathologist)

Q2 Also, for each year over the past 6 years please can you provide me with?

- **The date a body arrived at the mortuary**
- **The date a post mortem was started on this body**
- **The date release papers were signed to allow this body to be removed from the mortuary following the completion of the post mortem**

A2 Please see below:

• The date a body arrived at the mortuary	Information not held prior to 2014- please see table below for all PM's as per your clarification, section 12 exemption for date of arrival into the mortuary.
• The date a post mortem was started on this body	Section 12 exemption as detailed above
• The date release papers were signed to allow this body to be removed from the mortuary following the completion of the post mortem	Section 12 exemption as detailed above

Volume of Patients by TAT Date of death to Date of PM by Date of PM year						
Sum of UniquePtn	Column Labels					
DAYS DOD to PM	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
0			2	3		5
1	12	17	9	4	5	47
2	74	95	33	7	5	214
3	133	131	53	6	6	329
4	145	171	67	17	11	411
5	136	163	118	36	10	463
6	100	138	97	49	24	408
7	50	97	123	90	33	393
8	24	42	98	77	57	298
9	13	20	71	64	66	234
10	3	9	52	72	53	189
11		6	35	79	43	163
12		1	36	88	37	162
13		2	22	63	32	119
14			11	46	32	89
15			2	37	21	60
16			3	17	12	32
17				9	6	15
18				2	5	7
19			1	2	5	8
20				2	2	4
21					6	6
22					6	6
23					4	4
27					2	2
30					1	1
43		2				2
Grand Total	690	894	833	770	484	3671

*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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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information. 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.

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