



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital

Quality, Safety and Compliance Department

Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-451

Date: 13th November 2018

Tel: 01782 676474

Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 30th October 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding allocation of transgender patients on wards.

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 3 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health/departmental 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/departmental 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 that your request is shortened to just the questions that 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 31st October 2018 we contacted you via email as we required a time frame for questions 5 and 6 in order to collate the information.

On 12th November 2018 you telephoned to enquire if you had responded to the request for clarification?

We confirmed that we had not received any such clarification from you.

On 12th November 2018 you responded via email with the following clarification:

"Five years up to the month for which records exist and the last 12-month period within that. So if there were five events over five years and three of them were in the past year I'd need to know that."

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 When accommodating patients who identify as transgender on wards that are segregated according to sex do you allocate them by their biological birth/sex or their preferred/expressed gender?

To be clear, if a patient/service user who identifies as a transgender woman asks to be placed on a women's ward would you comply even if they had not taken any medical steps towards gender reassignment and retained their male genitalia or would you house them on a men's ward ?

A1 Our Policy asks that we treat patients for the gender they believe they are. We approach each patient as an individual and place them according to their wishes whilst being sensitive to the opinions and concerns that may arise from other patients in the area.

Q2 Do you have an official policy with regard to where transgender patients are accommodated where sex/segregation is a factor?

A2 The Trust does have an official policy with regard to where transgender patients are accommodated where sex/segregation is a factor.

Q3 How many transgender patients have you accommodated on wards according to their preferred/expressed gender rather than their biological sex for the 12 months up to the last month for which records are available?

A3 Section 12 exemption as detailed above.

Q4 Have there been any complaints from other patients/service users where that has occurred about that policy/decision?

A4 No

Q5 Have there been any complaints about the behaviour of patients who identify as transgender where they have been accommodated on wards in alignment with their transgender identity rather than their biological/birth sex?

A5 No

Q6 Have there been any negative/adverse incidents involving patients who identify as transgender that have affected other patients/service users, been reported/recorded in any official/formal capacity or required action/intervention outside of normal care?

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.

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