



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-530

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Tel: 01782 676474

Email [FOI@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding acanthamoeba keratitis. I apologise for the delay in responding.

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 your question 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.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 you contacted us via email with the following amendment to your request: *"How many cases of acanthamoeba keratitis (AK) have been diagnosed within your trust over the past five years?"*

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 cases of acanthamoeba keratitis (AK) have been diagnosed in England over the past five years?- A breakdown of the districts/NHS hospital Trusts involved with AK, in either diagnosed or suspected cases would be helpful.**

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

\*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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<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](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**