



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-592

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

Date: 22nd January 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 10th January 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Spider Bites.

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 questions 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 11th January 2019 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on whether you meant patients treated in ED or patients who were subsequently admitted to complete their treatment?

On the same day you replied via email with the following:

Thanks for the email, Re '***if you mean patients treated in ED or patients who were subsequently admitted to complete their treatment?***'

Can we please include data for BOTH means? Essentially, if the Trust has, in any capacity, been involved in the treatment of spider bites. And, if the information is available, what was the nature of the bite (i.e., domestic spider, pet spider, bite while abroad, etc, etc)

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 I'm looking for information on spider bites, and I ask for the following information.

How many patients have you treated for suspected and/or diagnosed spider bites in the last five years?

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above.



Q2 Can I please have a yearly breakdown on those figures for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018?

A2 As answer 1.

Q3 Can I please request a brief description of the treatment carried out, date of treatment, age and gender of the patient?

A3 As answer 1.

Q4 Where possible, can you indicate what type of spider was suspected of causing the bite?

A4 As answer 1.

*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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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