



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-300

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

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Tel: 01782 676474  
Email [FOI@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding support for secondary breast cancer patients.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on what you meant by “under the care of our Trust”

On the same day you replied via email the following:

*“By that we mean: under the care of University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust”*

We contacted you again via email on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 advising you that under the care of University Hospital of North Midlands was too generic and that under the care – did this mean patients receiving treatment over a given time period (if so what) for secondary breast cancer (i.e. recurrent or metastatic disease) or all those potentially under follow up for secondary breast cancer?

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 you replied via email the following:

*“We would like information on whether patients with secondary breast cancer currently under the care of your Trust (as in – the patients the Trust is supporting at this moment in time) are receiving the measures set out in the FOI request – such as a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA), access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and so forth.*

*Could you clarify what you mean by ‘potentially under follow up for secondary breast cancer’ – perhaps you could give us an example?*

*If it's easier, you can speak to someone on the Evidence,*

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 We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions, relating to the support provided to patients with a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust.**

**By a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer, we mean breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body such as the bones, lungs, liver or brain. Secondary breast cancer is also referred to as ‘metastatic’ or ‘advanced’ or ‘stage 4’ breast cancer.**



**Our questions**

**Holistic Needs Assessments (HNAs)**

**1) Do patients with secondary breast cancer have a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA), used to plan their care, conducted at the point of diagnosis (of their secondary breast cancer) and/or as their treatment changes?**

- **Yes, at the point of diagnosis only**
- **Yes, at the point of diagnosis and as their treatment changes**
- **No**
- **Other/unsure (please provide further information if possible)**

**If yes, do the HNAs cover the following areas?**

- **Emotional concerns and needs (yes/no)**
- **Physical concerns and needs (yes/no)**
- **Information needs (yes/no)**
- **Consideration of palliative care needs (yes/no)**

A1 Please see below:

Yes, at the point of diagnosis only	Not applicable
<u>Yes, at the point of diagnosis and as their treatment changes</u>	Yes
No	Not applicable
Other/unsure (please provide further information if possible)	Not applicable
If yes, do the HNAs cover the following areas?	Not applicable
Emotional concerns and needs (yes/no)	Yes
Physical concerns and needs (yes/no)	Yes
Information needs (yes/no)	Yes
Consideration of palliative care needs (yes/no)	Yes

**Q2 Access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist**

**3) How many people with secondary breast cancer are currently under the care of your Trust?**

A3) A review of breast activity from the Somerset register in 2015 identified the following numbers of patients who would be in a position to benefit from a metastatic breast CNS. This data suggests that there are around 120 patients per year who are being treated for metastatic disease.

4) Do all patients with secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust have access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of secondary breast cancer? (yes/no)

A) Yes

5) If yes, do these nurses:

- a) Provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only? (yes/no)
- b) Provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients? (yes/no)

A5) See below:

5) If yes, do these nurses:	See below
a) Provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only? (yes/no)	Yes
b) provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients? (yes/no)	Not applicable

6) If yes, please provide the number of CNS posts that fall under each of these categories (as applicable):

- a) CNSs that provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only
- b) CNSs that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients

A6) See below:

6) If yes, please provide the number of CNS posts that fall under each of these categories (as applicable):	Not applicable
a) CNSs that provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only	1WTE
b) CNSs that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients	Not applicable

7) If there are CNS posts within your Trust that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients, please tell us if they:

- a) Work in a combined role (where the care of both primary and secondary breast cancer patients is part of their formal job description) (yes/no)
- b) Work across both areas but their formal job description only covers primary breast cancer patients (yes/no)

A7) Parts a) and b) not applicable

### Q3 Information and referrals

8) At diagnosis and/or during the time they are under the care of your Trust, are patients with secondary breast cancer provided with the following information and/or referred to the following services?

- local and national secondary breast cancer support services (yes/no)

- specialist services for financial and employment advice (yes/no)
- information on talking to those closest to them about the impact of living with secondary breast cancer (yes/no)
- information about support available for family members (yes/no)
- local palliative and supportive care services, including referral for symptom control when needed (yes/no)
- support and information on planning end-of-life care (yes/no)

A3 Please see below:

local and national secondary breast cancer support services (yes/no)	Yes
specialist services for financial and employment advice (yes/no)	Yes
information on talking to those closest to them about the impact of living with secondary breast cancer (yes/no)	Yes
information about support available for family members (yes/no)	Yes
local palliative and supportive care services, including referral for symptom control when needed (yes/no)	Yes
support and information on planning end-of-life care (yes/no)	Yes

**Q4 Treatment Summaries**

**9) Do patients with secondary breast cancer receive a Treatment Summary\* at the end of each significant phase of treatment? (yes/no)**

A4 No

**Q5 Access to Health and Wellbeing Events**

**10) Does your Trust offer a Health and Wellbeing event\* suitable for patients with secondary breast cancer? (yes/no)**

**By suitable, we mean that it is adapted to be relevant to the needs of those living with secondary breast cancer. For example:**

- focuses on living with cancer, rather than adapting after finishing treatment
- may be more than one session, rather than a single event
- may include discussions on specific topics such as palliative care

(\*A Health and Wellbeing event is defined as a group education and support event which helps people to manage their physical and psychological health after a cancer diagnosis. An example of this is Breast Cancer Care's 'Living with Secondary Breast Cancer' service)

A5 Patients have access to Staffordshire 'Living with secondary breast cancer group, they also have access to the Macmillan information service which provides info of all local support groups, national groups and courses such as HOPE and Penny Brohn , they provide leaflets and info to the CNS to provide to patients.

\*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](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