



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-622

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

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding routine referral and response to previous FoI request reference 732-1819.

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 Further to our previous correspondence we now have expert evidence from a paediatrician on the issues raised in our request.**

**We are informed that there are national guidelines that require standard referrals to be seen within 18 weeks. However, in practice in our experts Trust patients are normally seen much sooner than this.**

**We believe it should be possible to confirm what your standard waiting list for a routine referral was in March 2017. I would be grateful if you could set out what this was.**

**I appreciate that it may have been assessed as needing further urgent input but that this would have been determined by the contents of the referral letter.**

**If you wish us to set out what we believe should have been included within the referral letter so that you can see how it would have been assessed we are happy to do so.**

**A1** This information is not held by UHNM as there is no national reporting requirement for us to collate this information.

However we have reviewed the RTT (referral to treatment) monthly submission for March 2017 to see if we are hitting the 92% target of patients seen and treated within 18wks and unfortunately even though there is a breakdown of specialty, Paediatrics isn't included and would fall into the category "Other".

With regards to what GP's write in referral letters, this would need to be answered by GP's themselves.

Please note from October 2018 it was made mandatory across the Country that all GP referrals have to be sent via the NHS system e-RS (electronic referral system). We advise you to either

speak to the GP's or the owners of e-RS to obtain what information is collected and send via this system.

\*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.

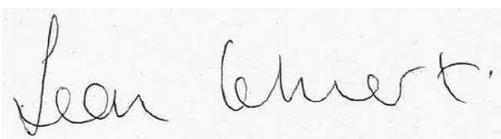
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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,





**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**

