

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-107

**Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection**
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 22nd July 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 6th July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding dermatology services

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

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 wish to make a series of separate requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The data required for the fulfilment of these requests are routinely collected and stored digitally by NHS Acute Trusts to support the provision of dermatology services.

Question 1

- a. Please confirm how many**
 - (i) Dermatology consultants**
 - (ii) Dermatology specialist nurses are currently in post in your NHS Trust**

- b. Please confirm how many**
 - (i) Dermatology consultant**
 - (ii) Dermatology specialist nurse posts are currently vacant in your NHS Trust**

A1 Please see below; staff in post as of 30 June 2020

a. Please confirm how many (i) Dermatology consultants	1
(ii) Dermatology specialist nurses are currently in post in your NHS Trust	0
b. Please confirm how many (i) Dermatology consultant	0
(ii) Dermatology specialist nurse posts are currently vacant in your NHS Trust	0

Q2 Question 2

- a. Please confirm whether your NHS Trust has a dedicated service/clinic for the prescribing and administration of biologic therapies for atopic dermatitis (Yes/No)
- b. If 'No' answered to question 2a, please confirm how the initiation of biologic therapies are managed locally in patients with atopic dermatitis
- c. If 'Yes' answered to question 2a, and an alternative provider delivers this service, please confirm:
 - (i) The name of the provider
 - (ii) How many dermatology consultants and dermatology specialist nurses are involved in this service?

A2 At UHNM the Staff (6 dermatologists and one biologic nurse) treats the patients in the general dermatology clinics both at Royal stoke and County hospitals.
Staff at UHNM prescribe Dupilumab, however this is administered via Health Net homecare.

Q3 Question 3

Please confirm how many

- (i) dermatology consultants
- (ii) dermatology specialist nurses are responsible for delivering biologic treatment for atopic dermatitis within your Trust

A3 As answer 2

Q4 Question 4

- a. Please confirm whether your NHS Trust has a documented protocol/pathway for the treatment of atopic dermatitis (Yes/No)
- b. If 'Yes' answered to 4a, Please confirm whether that protocol/pathway includes provision for the use of biologic therapies as a treatment option for moderate/severe atopic dermatitis (Yes/No)
- c. If 'Yes' answered to 4a, please provide a copy of the treatment protocol/pathway

A4 At UHNM we follow nice guidelines when managing patients with atopic dermatitis. The protocol is the same as of Nice guidelines.

I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding Nice guidelines, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means.*

This is because the information is available via the following link:
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

Q5 Question 5

- a. Please confirm whether your NHS Trust has a multi-disciplinary team in place to treat patients diagnosed with atopic dermatitis (Yes/No)
- b. If 'Yes' answered to 5a, please outline what interventions and services the multi-disciplinary team can offer patients (eg psychodermatology service)

A5 We have biologic Multidisciplinary Team Meeting (MDT) where we discuss complex cases. We also seek help from tertiary Dermatology units / regional psychodermatology service when needed.

Q6 Question 6

- a. Please confirm whether you have taken up any Free of Charge (FOC) Medicine Schemes from 2018 - 2020 (Yes/No)
- b. Please provide a copy of your organisations policy on free-of-charge schemes

A6 At UHNM there are no FOC medications for Atopic Dermatitis

*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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <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.

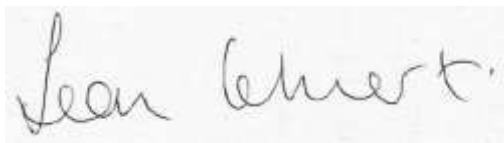
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager