

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-153

Date: 11th August 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 29th July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding care homes and COVID-19 testing

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 (UHM) 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 Between 01/02/2020 to 01/07/2020, how many patients were discharged from hospitals run by your Trust into care homes? Please provide a weekly breakdown.

A1 Please note that Government and Public Health England guidance to test all patients being discharged into a care home did not come into effect until 15th April 2020

Weekending	Home Discharges
02/02/2020	15
09/02/2020	154
16/02/2020	153
23/02/2020	153
01/03/2020	158
08/03/2020	144
15/03/2020	126
22/03/2020	117
29/03/2020	86

05/04/2020	102
12/04/2020	76
19/04/2020	97
26/04/2020	105
03/05/2020	101
10/05/2020	89
17/05/2020	89
24/05/2020	96
31/05/2020	71
07/06/2020	89
14/06/2020	83
21/06/2020	104
28/06/2020	91
05/07/2020	38

Q2 Of those patients who were discharged into care homes in the specified period, how many were tested for COVID-19 prior to leaving hospital? Please provide a weekly breakdown.

A2 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Please note that Government and Public Health England guidance to test all patients being discharged into a care home did not come into effect until 15th April 2020

Weekending	Total Tested
02/02/2020	-
09/02/2020	-
16/02/2020	-
23/02/2020	-
01/03/2020	-
08/03/2020	-
15/03/2020	<5
22/03/2020	15
29/03/2020	27
05/04/2020	53
12/04/2020	46
19/04/2020	63
26/04/2020	70
03/05/2020	78
10/05/2020	57

17/05/2020	57
24/05/2020	70
31/05/2020	41
07/06/2020	62
14/06/2020	51
21/06/2020	65
28/06/2020	56
05/07/2020	24

Q3 Finally, please tell me how many tested positive but were nonetheless discharged into care homes. Please provide a weekly breakdown

A3 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Please note that Government and Public Health England guidance to test all patients being discharged into a care home did not come into effect until 15th April 2020

Weekending	Total Positive
02/02/2020	-
09/02/2020	-
16/02/2020	-
23/02/2020	-
01/03/2020	-
08/03/2020	-
15/03/2020	0
22/03/2020	0
29/03/2020	<5
05/04/2020	21
12/04/2020	14
19/04/2020	32
26/04/2020	37
03/05/2020	29
10/05/2020	20
17/05/2020	22
24/05/2020	20
31/05/2020	7
07/06/2020	8
14/06/2020	5
21/06/2020	7
28/06/2020	6

05/07/2020	5
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*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.

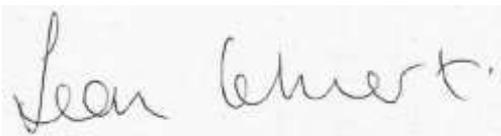
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

