

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-150

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

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding cataracts

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.**

On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 we contacted you via email with the following:

Do you mean the last day of the required months as per below? We advise you to check our response to your FOI request reference **100-2021** we stated, "The information is a picture (snapshot) at a particular point in time, and therefore we do not hold a "monthly" waiting time

On the same day you replied via email:

*"It means what was your average waiting time, snapshot is fine. All other English Trusts are / have been responding likewise"*

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 Under FOI can I request the following information from the Trust please?**

**1. Does the Trust Sub-Contract any or all Cataract Surgery?**

A1 No

**Q2 If Yes, who to?**

A2 Not applicable

**Q3 What was the Trusts Cataract Surgery Average Waiting Time in May 2020?**

A3 As per our response to your request ref 100-2021 this Information not held for this date. Waiting lists are snapshots at a particular point in time; not cumulative therefore we are unable to give a “monthly” average.

Unfortunately we only hold the most **recent waiting** (supplied on FOI ref 100-2021) list snapshot as there is no national requirement for us to hold past snapshots.

**Q4 What was the Trusts Cataract Surgery Average Waiting Time in May 2019?**

A4 As answer 3

**Q5 What was the Trusts Cataract Surgery Average Patient Waiting Numbers in May 2020?**

A5 As answer 3

**Q6 What was the Trusts Cataract Surgery Average Patient Waiting Numbers in May 2019?**

A6 As answer 3

**Q7 If unable to provide at that level please state and provide information at Ophthalmology Specialty?**

A7 As answer 3

\*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](http://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**