



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

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

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-166

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (received into our office 6<sup>th</sup> August) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding neonatal and maternity

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 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 we contacted you via email as we required a timeframe on Q2, was this 10 years as Q1?

You replied via email with the following:

*"Yes, 10 years for both questions"*

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020 we contacted you again via email as we required further clarification, we asked: What you are specifically referring to as NND?- (Neonatal death is up to 28 days of life. There is a range of deaths which would fit under this umbrella. There are babies who are in-born and die on the neonatal unit, babies who are delivered elsewhere and transferred over to us as ex-utero transfers who may pass away here, babies who get transferred to other neonatal units/PICU and pass away there, babies who get discharged from NNU/postnatal wards and then may come back into paediatrics being unwell/cot death.)

As of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 UHNM has not received any clarification for you therefore we are unable to answer Q1.



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 Please provide details of the number of neonatal and maternity deaths and neonatal and maternity serious incidents for the last ten years or as many previous years as can be provided. For example, if you only have figures pertaining to the last year, please provide these. If you have figures for up to ten years prior i.e. to 2010 please provide these.**

A1 As of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 UHNM has not received any clarification from you, as requested 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020, therefore we are unable to answer this question.

**Q2 Please also provide the number of complaints related to the neonatal and maternity department and details of whether the complaints were upheld, partially upheld or otherwise.**

A2 Please see below: information is from 1/7/2010 to 31/07/2020

There were a total of 325 complaints received for Maternity Services including Neonatal in the time period requested. We did not commence the recording of whether this was upheld/not upheld etc. until 2015, hence to date, there were the following recorded:

- 26 Not Upheld
- 79 Partially Upheld
- 29 Upheld
- 17 currently awaiting outcomes

\*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.

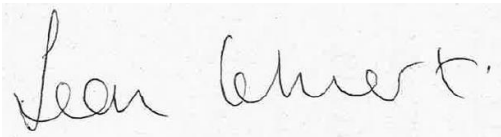
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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