

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-366

Date: 22nd December 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 27th November 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding self-discharge from hospital.

On 1st December 2020 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on the following: We require clarification on what information you are requiring for Q2 as this is too vague for us to answer with any accuracy.

On 2nd December 2020 you amended your request to the following:

"May I make an amendment to the FOI request I sent on 27/11/2020. Your Reference: 366-2021 Please could I amend question 2:

2. Your most recent statistics regarding 30-day readmission rates of patients who have self-discharged/ discharged against medical advice."

Please could I amend this to:

Your 30-day readmission rates from the dates of 01/05/2020 to 01/11/2020 for patients who were:

- 1. Admitted in an emergency (on the original spell/admission).*
- 2. Chose to self-discharge/ discharge against medical advice"*

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 Re: Information Request.

I am a third year master's degree nursing student at [REDACTED] in the process of completing my dissertation; my topic is self-discharge from hospital / discharge against medical advice. My dissertation is being supervised by [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is also a national lead with [REDACTED] on matters related to patient discharge.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request:

1. An electronic copy of any policies, procedures or guidelines within the Trust regarding or relating to patient discharge from hospital: specifically -
 - a. Patient self-discharge from hospital
 - b. Discharge against medical advice
 - c. Missing/Absconded patients

A1 Please see attached. Note that both policies are currently under review.

Q2 Your most recent statistics regarding 30-day readmission rates of patients who have self-discharged/ discharged against medical advice.

My area of specific interest is emergency care and acute medicine wards. As with all student dissertations, I am time limited, hence timeliness of your response is hugely important to me.

As per your Amendment above:

Your most recent statistics regarding 30-day readmission rates of patients who have self-discharged/ discharged against medical advice.”

Please could I amend this to:

“Your 30-day readmission rates from the dates of 01/05/2020 to 01/11/2020 for patients who were:

- 1. Admitted in an emergency (on the original spell/admission).**
- 2. Chose to self-discharge/ discharge against medical advice”**

A2 1) please see below:

Month	Readmission Rate %
May 2020	0.145
Jun 2020	0.148
Jul 2020	0.146
Aug 2020	0.158
Sep 2020	0.152
Oct 2020	0.135

2) Data not held. There are no readmissions which fall under this cohort as they do not form part of the inclusion criteria to what is classed as a readmission, see website for further guidance as to the criteria of a 30 day readmission.

https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/ccg-outcomes-indicator-set/specifications/3.2-emergency-readmissions-within-30-days-of-discharge-from-hospital_1_4

*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.

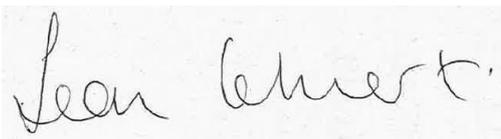
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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