



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-398

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

Date: 22nd January 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 14th December 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Myelofibrosis and Oesophageal cancer

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in questions part 2 and 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 am researching the incidence and treatment of Myelofibrosis and Oesophageal cancer. Could you please answer the following questions for patients treated by your Trust?

Q1. Does your Trust treat the following conditions? If not, which other Trust do you refer these patients to?

- **Advanced oesophageal cancer**
- **Myelofibrosis**

A1 Please see below:

- Advanced oesophageal cancer = Yes
- Myelofibrosis = yes

Q2 Please provide the total number of patients treated in the last 6 months for:

- **Myelofibrosis**
- **Myelofibrosis – patients over the age 65**
- **Oesophageal cancer (any type)**
- **Oesophageal adenocarcinoma**
- **Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma**
- **Unresectable Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma**

A2 Please see below: Total number of first treatments

- Myelofibrosis = Myelofibrosis is not a reportable malignancy for cancer waits, therefore this information is not held on the UHNM Somerset Cancer Register system. Myelofibrosis has an ICD-10 code of D75.81 and we only capture codes beginning with a 'C' or 'D05, therefore section 12 exemption as detailed above applies
- Myelofibrosis – patients over the age 65 = as above
- Oesophageal cancer (any type) = 63
- Oesophageal adenocarcinoma = 45
- Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma = 8
- Unresectable Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma = 0

Q3 For the oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma patients only, how many patients were treated in the past 6 months with?

- **Platinum and Fluoropyrimidene based combination treatments (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin with 5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)**
- **Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy**
- **Palliative care only**

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 as being <5.

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

- Platinum and Fluoropyrimidene based combination treatments (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin with 5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine) - 46
- Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy:
 - a. Docetaxel = 5
 - b. Epirubicin, Carboplatin & Capecitabine = <5
 - c. Carboplatin & Etoposide = <5
- Palliative care only = data not held for patients on Best Supportive Care, as not on active SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy)

Q4 For Myelofibrosis patients only, how many patients (of any age) were treated in the past 6 months with?

- **Ruxolitinib**
- **Hydroxyurea**
- **Watch and wait approach**

A4 Please see below:

- Ruxolitinib = 9
- Hydroxyurea = 7
- Watch and wait approach = section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

Q5 Does your Trust participate in any clinical trials for oesophageal cancer? If so, can you please provide the name of each trial along with the number of patients taking part?

A5 No

Q6 Does your Trust participate in any clinical trials for the treatment of Myelofibrosis? If so, can you please provide the name of each trial along with the number of patients taking part?

A6 No

*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.

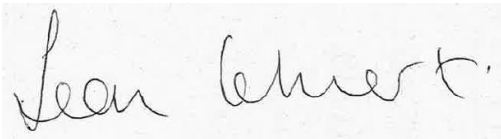
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager