

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-428

Date: 2nd March 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 29th December 2020 received into our office 4th January 2021 (sent to our communication team) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid.

Please note that all FOI requests should be sent to FOI@uhnm.nhs.uk .

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 1 and 2 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/death records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual health/death 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/death 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

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 I would like under the above act information on from March 2020 till December 2020. How many Covid patients have been treated?

A1 To identify a patient who has been treated for COVID we have looked where the patient has had the COVID clinical coding of U071 applied to their inpatient stay record and has been discharged from hospital. Please note these figures include deceased patients as these patients would have been receiving treatment for COVID prior to their death.

The number of patients discharged is 3465 for the period March – December 2020.

Q2 How many Covid patients have died?

A2 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above, however note:

We are counting COVID-19 deaths as per the national guidance. The figure, and a description of the definition we are using, are published daily and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

The link to the Trust level data is available in the daily spread sheet in the section titled 'COVID-19 all announced deaths'.

NHS England has the following below:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

Please note that we are providing these links under Section 21 of the FOI Act – 'Information reasonably accessible to the applicant via other means'.

Q3 How many Covid wards there are?

A3 Please see below:

- November 2021 Covid Wards (13) @ 297 beds
- September Covid Wards (5) @ 122 beds.
- July Covid Wards (5) @ 122 beds.

Q4 How many Covid beds in total are there?

A4 There is no fixed Covid bed position, beds were scaled up in accordance with the demand.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHM 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.uhm.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.

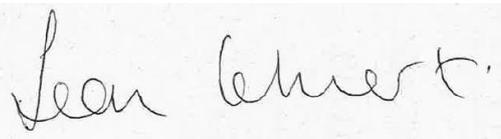
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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