



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-555

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid-19.

***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 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarifications:

Q7:

a) What do you mean when you refer to “among patients”, are you meaning those who are admitted to hospital? So is it the number of patients who tested positive for COVID19 at any stage during their inpatient?

b) Are you asking for the number of staff who tested positive for COVID19 between 1st March 2020 and 1st March 2021?

On the same day you replied via email with:

*“Apologies for any confusion. Re 7a) I meant what were the total number of patients with Covid during this period ie both those admitted who already had it and those who caught Covid while in hospital.*

*Re 7b) yes it's the number of staff who tested positive”.*

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 Between 1 March 2020 and 1 March 2021 (or the most recent date for which figures are available), how many Covid-19 infections in patients were hospital acquired?**
- i) Of these, how many were probable infections (i.e. within 8-14 days of admission to hospital)?**
  - ii) How many were definite infections (15 days or more after admission to hospital)?**

A1 Please see below:  
part i) – there were 544 probable cases confirmed at UHNM between 01/03/2020 and 01/03/2021 inclusive  
part ii) – I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding the above, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: - board papers  
<https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/our-board/trust-board-papers/>

- Q2 Of those who acquired Covid-19 while in hospital between 1 March 2020 and 1 March 2021 (or the most recent date for which figures are available), how many died?**

A2 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding the above, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: - board papers  
<https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/our-board/trust-board-papers/>

- Q3 What was the total number of Covid-19 deaths at your Trust between 1 March 2020 and 1 March 2021 (or the most recent date for which figures are available)?**

A3 1397 (this is deaths where Covid-19 has been recorded anywhere on the death certificate).

- Q4 How many members of staff contracted Covid-19 between 1 March 2020 and 1 March 2021 (or the most recent date for which figures are available)?**

A4 1863

- Q5 How many members of staff were absent from work due to Covid-19 between 1 March 2020 and 1 March 2021 (or the most recent date for which figures are available)?**

A5 From 1st March 2020 to 1st March 2021, 3211 staff took one or more absence episodes due to "Chest and Respiratory problems" which is the categorisation used for covid absence.

Note:

- The number of episodes may include some non-covid related absence due to chest and respiratory problems
- Data relates to fixed term and permanent employees only
- Data is extracted from ESR, which is the Electronic Staff Record system

- Q6 How many members of staff died due to Covid-19 between 1 March 2020 and 1 March 2021 (or the most recent date for which figures are available)?**

A6 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.

**Q7 What is the total number of Covid-19 infections a) among patients and b) among staff recorded at your Trust between 1 March 2020 and 1 March 2021?**

A7 See below:

- a) we have had 4842 COVID-19 positive patients admitted to inpatient areas between 01/03/2020 and 01/03/2021 inclusive
- b) As answer 4

\*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.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

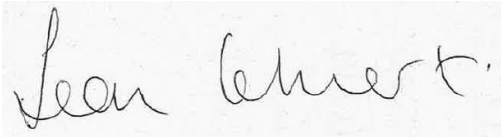
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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**