



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-209

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

Date: 28th July 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 11/07/2021 received into our office 12th July requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid patients in intensive care.

On 19th July 2021 we contacted you via email as your two requests were confusing and we required clarification on what you were asking:

On the same day you replied via email with the following:

'Please let me know, preferably by PDF, the number of weeks in hospital Covid patients in intensive care have spent in intensive care since February last year - please disclose by disclosing, for each number of weeks that doesn't have zero patients at that number of weeks, the number that were discharged having spent that amount of weeks in intensive care at the Royal Stoke Hospital.

Relating to the amount of weeks that Covid patents in intensive care have spent there since February last year before being discharged, please reveal the number of discharges that were discharges to another hospital (any hospital not just another hospital at this Trust) for continued intensive care treatment rather than no longer needing hospital treatment at all at that stage.

Therefore, if for example, you have X patients that spent twelve weeks in ICU (or however many) and Y of them (at the twelve weeks) were discharged to another hospital, then it will be "12 weeks - Y" in answer to this request. It will be disclosed as such for example in a list running from 1 week to the maximum number of weeks anyone with Covid at the Royal Stoke Hospital has spent in ICU before being discharged to another hospital (regardless of wherever it is) and omitting any numbers of weeks that have zero Covid patients discharged at those number of weeks - against each week period will be whatever Y is for that week (being the number of weeks it was until someone with Covid was discharged) - so Y for each applicable week will be however many of the discharges (relating to the time in weeks until discharge from Royal Stoke) were to any other hospitals'.

On 26th July 2021 we contacted you via email as we required further clarification:

We are struggling to understand what information you are asking for, therefore, if Patient A has one spell with three ward stays one of which is on ITU. In total they spend 25 days in hospital but only 3 days in ITU – would we just count the 3 days and if so would that be 0 or 1 week?

On the same day you replied via email with:

'In the example you've given, this would be excluded from the request.

However, it is more helpful if I explain why.

It is just the 3 days because it is the number of weeks they "have spent in intensive care" (the phrasing of the request).*

However, they haven't spent a week (as in 7 days or more), they have spent less so I think we'll say their stay (which is just the "have spent in intensive care" part) doesn't qualify.

*Just ITU. Anyone that has spent less than 7 days, excluded.
Once they have spent a week (7 days regardless of what day of the week it began on), I think we'll round up once they reach 3 and a half days beyond each exact week point'.*

**Here it is days but we might say number of weeks is expressed as a fraction - 3/7ths of a week, so that for example 1 week 1 day would be 1 and a seventh weeks - or 1.142857...(etc.) weeks'*

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because some of the information requested in your question 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 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 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 question 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 Please let me know, preferably by PDF, the number of weeks in hospital Covid patients in intensive care have spent in intensive care since February last year - please disclose by disclosing, for each number of weeks that doesn't have zero patients at that number of weeks, the number that were discharged having spent that amount of weeks in intensive care at the Royal Stoke Hospital. Please reveal the number of discharges by reference to amount of weeks that were discharges to another hospital (any hospital not just another hospital at this Trust) for continued intensive care treatment rather than no longer needing hospital treatment at all at that stage.

On the same day you sent another email – see below:

Apologies - if I add the word "also" into the last part, to make the request more clear. So it now begins "Please also reveal the number of discharges by reference to ..." etc.

Which means it is a separate request and doesn't mean the number of discharges for continued intensive care elsewhere are the only discharges within the first request.

If I have confused by this additional email, please let me know.

Clarified request:

Please let me know, preferably by PDF, the number of weeks in hospital Covid patients in intensive care have spent in intensive care since February last year - please disclose by disclosing, for each number of weeks that doesn't have zero patients at that number of weeks, the number that were discharged having spent that amount of weeks in intensive care at the Royal Stoke Hospital.

Relating to the amount of weeks that Covid patents in intensive care have spent there since February last year before being discharged, please reveal the number of discharges that were discharges to another hospital (any hospital not just another hospital at this Trust) for continued intensive care treatment rather than no longer needing hospital treatment at all at that stage.

Therefore, if for example, you have X patients that spent twelve weeks in ICU (or however many) and Y of them (at the twelve weeks) were discharged to another hospital, then it will be "12 weeks - Y" in answer to this request. It will be disclosed as such for example in a list running from 1 week to the maximum number of weeks anyone with Covid at the Royal Stoke Hospital has spent in ICU before being discharged to another hospital (regardless of wherever it is) and omitting any numbers of weeks that have zero Covid patients discharged at those number of weeks - against each week period will be whatever Y is for that week (being the number of weeks it was until someone with Covid was discharged) - so Y for each applicable week will be however many of the discharges (relating to the time in weeks until discharge from Royal Stoke) were to any other hospitals.

A1 As per your clarifications above, See below: note can't identify patients discharged to another hospital- section 12 exemption as detailed above:

Weeks Waiting	Total Patients
1.00	25
1.14	20
1.29	27
1.43	18
1.57	27
1.71	12
1.86	11
2.00	14
2.14	6
2.29	12
2.43	13
2.57	12
2.71	5
2.86	4
3.00	5
3.14	10
3.29	8
3.43	3
3.57	4

3.71	3
3.86	4
4.00	3
4.14	7
4.29	2
4.43	1
4.71	2
4.86	2
5.00	5
5.14	2
5.29	6
5.43	2
5.57	5
5.71	2
5.86	3
6.00	1
6.29	4
6.43	3
6.86	3
7.00	1
7.14	4
7.43	1
7.57	2
7.71	2
8.00	2
8.29	1
8.43	1
8.71	1
9.29	1
9.57	1
10.43	2
10.86	1
11.71	1
13.00	1
18.00	1
30.86	1
	320

*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.

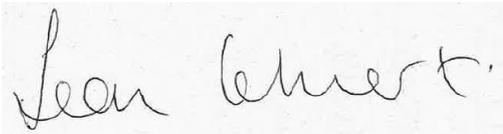
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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