



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-292

Date: 15th September 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 31st August 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding TB.

On the same day we contacted you via email as the below is a statement and not a question, could you confirm what your question is?

On 6th September 2021 you replied via email with:

'Thank you for your response and I have no idea why the email was not delivered.'

I also apologise as the "question" was within the initial communications with the Health Authority, and I should have referenced clearly.

Simply, as an area of interest, and a party directly affected by the TB outbreak, my question is please can you provide the findings of the investigation and extensive testing, and actions taken by the relevant 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 am writing to you to request information under the freedom of information act.

In 2007/2008, there was a TB outbreak and subsequent National investigation. The initial case was located in South Staffordshire, with the investigation moving from Cheshire to Kent and across to South Wales.

Some background to the outbreak which should be helpful.

I was first notified of the TB outbreak by South Staffordshire Public Health through a phone call circa March/April 2007. The initial case was some 4 months prior to that, being my ex-wife [REDACTED] (previously [REDACTED]), who contracted TB through a student at Wolverhampton University. [REDACTED] then passed the infection onto my daughter, [REDACTED], who was treated at both Stafford General and Doncaster Hospitals. I am using the names as a reference and as [REDACTED] was both a registered nurse and a Manager employed at South Staffs Health Authority at the time. The fact that I was not informed of my [REDACTED] diagnosis resulted in PHEs direct involvement and many people being tested for TB.

My curiosity is based on being a qualified and published medical microbiologist, and I have an epidemiological interest as having studied TB during my degree. I was never advised of any findings or actions even though I was both tested and interviewed, due to a lack of initial communication from [REDACTED] which had put many at risk of infection, again hence my medical curiosity.

A1 As per your clarification above - Information not held. Public Health England (PHE) may hold this information; they can be contacted at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england> or email: foi@phe.gov.uk

*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,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

