

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-171b

Date: 25th October 2021

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

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 6th July 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding internal review for our response on CAMH services.

You asked:

'All other Trusts - including much larger ones - have been able to respond with this data, and have not invoked S12.'

All other acute Trusts contacted do also hold information relating to all questions. I have asked for data relating to acute trusts - so, for example, if your acute Trust refers a patient to CAMHS from A&E, that referral is still held on your system (or should be).

Further, as all other Trusts have been able to supply this data within the time limit, and as all patient data is held in relatively comparable systems between Trusts, I struggle to understand how you are not able to gather it within the time limits. You also have not as far as I can see fulfilled your obligation under S16 of the act to guide me as to what data you are able to obtain within the time limit.

I would therefore politely ask that you look again to see what data you hold, and are able to supply to me within the time limit, and then simply hand over whatever data you are reasonably able to gather within this time frame'.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) our Head of Data, Security & Protection/ Data Protection Officer conducted the internal review. They examined all the information in relation to this request and found that the section 12 exemption was correctly applied, and therefore supported the Trusts decision to withhold this information based on the reasons given in the response sent to you on 5th July 2021. However re-directing you to North Staffordshire Combined health – Darwin Center was not upheld. A copy of our original response is attached for your reference.

Please note the following:

There are multiple PAS systems available to Trusts, many Trusts build in house information systems to enable them to collect information that is not collected via their main PAS system if they feel it is of value.

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 your questions 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*

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 requesting data about the use of Acute and Hospital Trust services by children and young people experiencing psychological distress.

The questions are in order of priority. Please work your way from Question 1 to 5, and simply answer as many questions as you can within the time deadline. If you are unable to answer all the questions within the time deadline, please simply provide the information you are able to gather.

For every month from 1 January 2019 to 31 May 2021, please answer the following questions:

1 In that month, how many children and young people (CYP) aged 18 and under did you refer to CAMH services after they arrived in your emergency department(s)?

- A1 Information not held by UHNM, North Staffordshire Combined health – Darwin Center may hold this information they can be contacted at the following email:
FOIRequests@combined.nhs.uk

Not upheld at internal review, however in order to provide this information all patient notes would need to be reviewed, therefore section 12 exemption has been applied as detailed 1.

As part of our due diligence in determining whether the Section 12 exemption was appropriate, we took one patient at random. It would require a clinician to review the paper medical record, (which in the majority of cases have been archived to off-site storage), Taking this example as a base line (the length of time to identify the record and review - approx. 2 minutes) and multiplying that by the 758 patients concerned (as at 9th July 2021) would take approx.35 hours, which is far in excess of the 18 hours listed in the FOI legislation as a reasonable amount of time for one person to collate the data.

Q2 In that months, of these CYP in question one, how many were referred to CAMH services for treatment of a suspected or confirmed eating disorder? If helpful, please search against the ICD Code F50.0, which may be included in the referral.

- A2 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 your questions 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

Q3 In that month, how many CYP were admitted to or treated by your acute hospital Trust for the following:

3 a Treatment of an eating disorder, such as refeeding and medical stabilisation? If helpful, please search against the ICD Code F.50, which should cover all relevant eating disorder diagnoses.

3 b Treatment of self-inflicted injury? If helpful, please search against ICD Codes X60 to X69.

3 c Treatment of drug or other toxic substance overdose, whether accidental or intentional? If helpful, please search against ICD Codes X70 to X84.

A3 Section 12 exemption as detailed above- upheld at internal review

However,

3 a Treatment of an eating disorder, such as refeeding and medical stabilisation? If helpful, please search against the ICD Code F.50, which should cover all relevant eating disorder diagnoses. – There are 212 records which have the ICD10 supplied by you on the patients inpatient record

3 b Treatment of self-inflicted injury? If helpful, please search against ICD Codes X60 to X69 – There are 443 records which have the ICD10 supplied by you on the patients inpatient record

3 c Treatment of drug or other toxic substance overdose, whether accidental or intentional? If helpful, please search against ICD Codes X70 to X84 – There are 103 records which have the ICD10 supplied by the requester on the patients inpatient record

Note: we do not record the reason for admission on our system and would need to review each individual record- section 12 exemption

Q4 In this month, how many CYP were admitted to your acute trust for compulsory treatment with use of the Mental Health Act?

A4 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 your questions 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

Q5 In this month, of those CYP admitted to your acute Trust for compulsory treatment with use of the Mental Health Act, how many had an eating disorder diagnosis (ICD Code in the F50 category)?

A5 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 your questions 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*

*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.

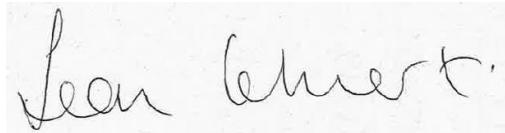
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager