



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-487

Date: 17th January 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 21st December 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding injection-spiking.

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 Please could you provide me with the number of A&E admissions relating to so-called “injection-spiking” in 2021, by month? Of these, how many patients had tests taken for toxicology and what were the outcomes? If possible, please can you break this down into types of test (e.g. blood/urine/hair), length of time since incident (“within 12hrs”, “within 24hrs” and “within 72hrs”), demographic of patient and type of drug found (if any).

A1 There is no specific category on the Trust reporting system for injection spiking or drink spiking. Patients are treated on their presenting symptoms, therefore, if a patient was brought in unconscious, they would be booked in accordingly. No specific blood tests would be carried out to see if they had drugs in their system.

If a patient presented and said they have been spiked but didn't know what drug with, their symptoms would be managed accordingly. If they knew what actual drug they had been spiked with, then staff could look on Toxbase online for management guidance.

Q2 Please could you provide me with the number of A&E admissions relating to so-called “drink-spiking” between Jan 2015 - Dec 2021? Of these, how many patients had tests taken for toxicology and what were the outcomes? If possible, please can you break this down into types of test (e.g. blood/urine/hair), length of time since incident (“within 12hrs”, “within 24hrs” and “within 72hrs”), demographic of patient and type of drug found (if any).

A2 As answer 1

Q3 Please could you provide me with the Trust's current policy at A&E for testing for reported or suspected “injection-spiking” in patients? If possible, please include information on whether tests are done, even when not clinically

necessary e.g. for benefit of capturing the information / early evidence for police in case of subsequent reporting.

A3 There are no current policies

Q4 Please could you provide me with the Trust's current policy at A&E for testing for reported or suspected "drink-spiking" in patients? If possible, please include information on whether tests are done, even when not clinically necessary e.g. for benefit of capturing the information / early evidence for police in case of subsequent reporting.

A4 As answer 3

Q5 Please could you tell me what funding, if any, the Trust has received (directly or indirectly) from the Home Office's Safety of Women at Night Fund (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-awarded-for-new-projects-to-keep-women-safe>)?

A5 None

*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.

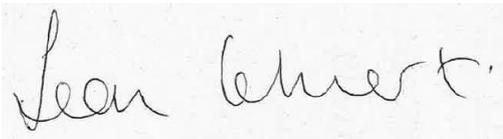
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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