

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-481c

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

Date: 3rd February 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 25th January 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding on another query on our response for Guillain Barre Syndrome.

You stated:

'Thank you again for your response regarding clarification of my FOI request. I just wanted to check these matters to see if I have absolutely understood the trust position and whether the trust has absolutely understood my FOI.

In your response you use the word definitely in italics "definitely caused by the vaccine." My FOI request was "associated with." This is a temporal matter. Was the patient vaccinated within the previous 4-6 weeks with AZ. If you have data that fits that criteria, then I would be grateful, if you would provide it.

If not, just to be absolutely clear. There is no systematic way or protocol for accurately and rigorously recording adverse effects in hospital due to Covid-19 vaccination. There is no knowledge of the patients vaccination status because it is held only by GP.

There was also no specific protocol provided to NHS trusts for the accurate recording and collation of adverse effects from Covid-19 vaccination - just the yellow card scheme.

I note too this article in Nottingham - so it was just a chance occurrence that they picked up on it?

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34114269/>



[Guillain-Barré Syndrome Variant Occurring after SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination - PubMed](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34114269/)

Although SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are very safe, we report 4 cases of the bifacial weakness with paresthesias variant of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) occurring within 3 weeks of vaccination with the Oxford-AstraZeneca SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. This rare neurological syndrome has previously been reported in as ...
pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

Our response:

<p>In your response you use the word definitely in italics "definitely caused by the vaccine." My FOI request was "associated with." This is a temporal matter. Was the patient vaccinated within the previous 4-6 weeks with AZ. If you have data that fits that criteria, then I would be grateful, if you would provide it. –</p>	<p>The Trust does not hold any information about a patient's vaccination record as there is not national requirement to do so; therefore we are unable to advise if a patient has received a COVID vaccination, which type of vaccination and how long it was since their vaccination.</p>
<p>If not, just to be absolutely clear. There is no systematic way or protocol for accurately and rigorously recording adverse effects in hospital due to Covid-19 vaccination</p>	<p>All recording of adverse effects is submitted directly to the MHRA through the Yellow Card Scheme – there is no requirement for us to record this information</p>
<p>There is no knowledge of the patients vaccination status because it is held only by GP –</p>	<p>This is correct – there is no national requirement for Trusts to hold this information.</p>
<p>There was also no specific protocol provided to NHS Trusts for the accurate recording and collation of adverse effects from Covid-19 vaccination - just the yellow card scheme –</p>	<p>This is UHNM's understanding</p>
<p>I note too this article in Nottingham - so it was just a chance occurrence that they picked up on it?</p>	<p>Any further comment on the article would need to be provided by the author(s)</p>

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.

*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.

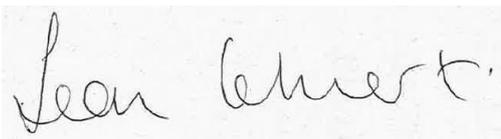
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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