



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-118

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

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 9th June 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding no fixed abode.

**The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

On the same day we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

*Please can I be provided with the figures for the number of people without a fixed abode who have been discharged from hospitals within your trust over the past five years? = please **clarify what you mean by "discharged from hospital- is it those discharged following an inpatient stay or those who have attended the ED department?"***

*Please can you provide this data in the following way?*

- *By annual year for each of the following years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 so far.*
- *Please can you provide one figure for each year, taking in the total discharges from your NHS trust. = **please clarify what you mean by "total discharges"?***

*Please can I also be provided with the figures for the number of people without a fixed abode who were readmitted within six months? = **clarify what is the requester meaning by "readmitted"?** (Any patient who happens to have another admission within six of been discharged, is the readmission for the same condition or any condition? Is it you are only after those who have an emergency admission following a discharge?)*

On the same day you replied via email with:

*‘please clarify what you mean by “discharged from hospital- is it those discharged following an inpatient stay or those who have attended the ED department?*

*Can you provide both?*

*please clarify what you mean by “total discharges”?*

*As in the total number of discharges from hospital. Both those discharged following an inpatient stay and those who have attended the ED department combined.*

*clarify what is the requester meaning by “readmitted”? (any patient who happens to have another admission within six of been discharged, is the readmission for the same condition or any condition? Is it you are only after those who have an emergency admission following a discharge.)*

*Would it be possible to get data for readmission for any condition?*

*And if possible any type of hospital readmission, not just an emergency admission.*

*If it's not possible to get that data together, could you share the number of emergency admissions following a discharge? ‘*

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 can I be provided with the figures for the number of people without a fixed abode who have been discharged from hospitals within your trust over the past five years?**

**Please can you provide this data in the following way?**

- **By annual year for each of the following years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 so far.**
- **Please can you provide one figure for each year, taking in the total discharges from your NHS Trust?**

**Please can I also be provided with the figures for the number of people without a fixed abode who were readmitted within six months?**

**Can you please provide this data in the same way as above?**

**A1 As per clarification from the requester, below table shows the number of ED attendances and IP Admissions.**

Data only held from September 2018, prior to this there was no formal procedure on the recording of no fixed abode patients, therefore prior to this date you would have to manually check each record to try to ascertain if the patient was of no fixed abode (NFA) or not.

To identify if a patient is of NFA the following postcode, ZZ99 3VZ, is entered as the patient’s address. The following information is based on the patients who have this postcode at the time of attendance.

Also please note these are attendances/admissions **NOT** unique patients as a patient may attend/be admitted multiple times.

The below table is for the period 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 18 to 14<sup>th</sup> June 22

Cal Year	AE_Attendances	IP_Admissions	Total
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2018	201	72	273
2019	448	192	640
2020	449	162	611
2021	417	120	537
2022	187	45	232
Grand Total	1702	591	2293

You have also asked for information regarding patients of no fixed abode who have been readmitted within 6 months. We only hold information on readmissions following an inpatient stay within 28 days as this a national reporting requirement.

In order to answer this question we have looked at patients who have attended/admitted during the period of 1st Sept 18 to the 14th June 22 to see if there were any subsequent admission or attendance within 6 months. the data shown below demonstrates the number of people readmitted and not the number of attendances or admissions for these individuals reported

For the period 1st Sept 18 to 14th June 22 there are **89 unique NFA patients** who were admitted within the 6 months following a previous inpatient stay.

For the period 1st Sept 18 to 14th June 22 there are **256 unique NFA patients** who attended ED within the 6 months following a previous ED attendance.

\*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

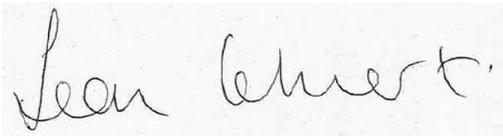
still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

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](http://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**