



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

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

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-188

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 6th July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding consultation re FOIA request CQC IAT 2223 0168.

**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.**

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 CQC has received a request for access to information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).**

**The request is as follows:**

***“Please may I receive copies of all requests to investigate a mortality outlier alert sent by the CQC to acute NHS trusts since 2019 to the present day.***

***This includes correspondence related to each request e.g. the letter sent to the trust detailing the mortality outlier alert, as well as the course of action the CQC expects the trust to take. Please also include any reports that were attached to the request e.g. a data report summarising the trust's mortality data.***



*Please also include a summary spreadsheet that indicates the date the request was sent, the name of the trust involved, and the current status of the investigation e.g. closed.”*

During the course of examining the recorded information held by us, we have identified information that was sent to your Trust. This information is attached. The purpose of this correspondence is to seek your views on disclosure of this information. If you feel that we should withhold any information, please ensure that you explain the reasons why you feel it is appropriate to do so. CQC will give full consideration to any comments that you raise when reaching a decision on whether to disclose the information under FOIA.

The attached letter falls within the scope of the request and we are minded to release this.

Could you let me know by reply whether you have any concerns about disclosure? To enable me to consider your views please respond by noon on 12 July 2022. If I do not receive a response by this date, I will need to decide as to whether it is fair and lawful to disclose the requested information. Without your input, we may not be able to justify a legal exemption to lawfully withhold the information.

A1 UHNM has reviewed the information that we released to the CQC, and can see no issues

\*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.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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

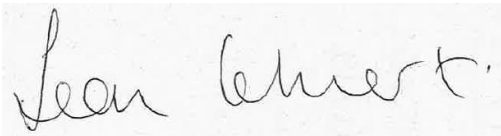
still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

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**