



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-285

Date: 1st November 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 23rd August 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding still birth/Covid.

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 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 Number of stillbirths in total for the period Jan 1 - June 30 2022

A1 Number of stillbirths in total for the period Jan 1 - June 30 2022 = 11

Q2 Of those stillbirths, how many of the mothers had received the Covid 19 vaccination?

1. 1 dose
2. 2 doses
3. 2 doses and the booster

A2 See below:

1. 1 dose - 0
2. 2 doses - 3
3. 2 doses and the booster – 3

- Q3 Of those stillbirths, how many burials/cremations were conducted or handled by the NHS Trust?**
- A3 Six
- Q4 What was the main cause of death among the stillbirths?**
- A4 We don't keep this information – ONS (office of national statistics) will be able to provide the information. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>
- Q5 Of those stillbirths, how many cremations took place on the NHS Trust's grounds?**
- A5 Hospital funerals (SB babies) do not take place on Trust grounds; they take place at the local crematorium.
- Q6 Total number of infant deaths where the infant was aged 0-3mths at the time of death during the period 1 Jan – 30 June 2022.**
- Q6 Total number of infant deaths where the infant was aged 0-3mths at the time of death during the period 1 Jan – 30 June 2022 = 11
- Q7 With regards the infant deaths for the 0-3mth age group, how many of the mothers had received the Covid 19 vaccination?**
1. 1 dose
 2. 2 doses
 3. 2 doses and the booster
- A7 See below:
1. 1 dose - 2
 2. 2 doses – 4
 3. 2 doses and the booster – 2
- Q8 With regards the infant deaths for the 0-3mth age group, how many burials/cremations were conducted/handled by the NHS Trust?**
- A8 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5
This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.
- Q9 With regards the infant deaths for the 0-3mth old age group, how many cremations took place on the NHS Trust's grounds?**
- A9 All Trust services/cremations take place at the local crematorium, not on Trust grounds.
- Q10 What was the main cause of death for the infant deaths in the 0-3mth age group?**

- A10 We don't keep this information – ONS (office of national statistics) will be able to provide the information. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>
- Q11 Total number of infant deaths where the infant was aged 3-6mths at the time of death during the period 1 Jan – 30 June 2022.**
- A11 Total number of infant deaths where the infant was aged 3-6mths at the time of death during the period 1 Jan – 30 June 2022 = 0
- Q12 With regards the infant deaths for the 3-6mth age group, how many of the mothers had received the Covid 19 vaccination?**
1. 1 dose
 2. 2 doses
 3. 2 doses and the booster
- A12 Not applicable
- Q13 With regards the infant deaths for the 3-6mth age group, how many burials/cremations were conducted/handled by the NHS Trust?**
- A13 Not applicable
- Q14 With regards the infant deaths for the 3-6mth old age group, how many cremations took place on the NHS Trust's grounds?**
- A14 Not applicable
- Q15 What was the main cause of death for the infant deaths in the 3-6mth age group?**
- A15 Not applicable

*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.

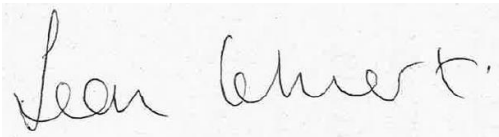
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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