



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-320

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13th September 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding A&E patient discharges.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (received into our office 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022) you sent the following email:

*'To clarify, I am requesting data for the FULL financial years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22.*

*For 2022-23 ONLY, I am requesting data up to and including 31 August.'*

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification: What do you mean when you refer to "general medical or specialty"

Currently we've taken it to be those who were referred to one of the following medical specialties:-

NHS_ID	DESCRIPTION
180	Accident & Emergency
300	General Medicine
301	Gastroenterology
302	Endocrinology

304	Clinical Physiology
305	Clinical Pharmacology
311	Clinical Genetics
325	Sports and Exercise Medicine
326	Acute Internal Medicine
340	Respiratory Medicine
350	Infectious Diseases
352	Tropical Medicine
361	Nephrology
430	Geriatric Medicine
950	Nursing Episode
306	Hepatology
307	Diabetic Medicine
341	Respiratory Physiology
259	Paediatric Nephrology
655	Orthoptics
656	Clinical Psychology
950	Nursing Advice
950	Smoking Advice
920	Diabetic Education Service
362	Pre-Renal Replacement
362	Pre-Renal Replacement
343	Adult Cystic Fibrosis
300	General Medicine-300B
	Clin Cyto Genetics & Molecular Gen
312	
340	Thoracic Medicine
430	Geriatric Medicine

Or do you mean a referral to any specialty – [https://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/attributes/main\\_specialty\\_code.html](https://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/attributes/main_specialty_code.html) please note not all trusts supply services for all specialties shown.

On the same day you replied via email with:  
*'I am looking for data on patients who have been requested a bed on any hospital ward, but have been discharged from ED without being admitted.'*

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 For each of the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 up to and including 31 August:**

1. How many A&E patients were referred to a general medical or specialty ward by the ED team?

A1 Clarified request = requester means all specialty request, not just Medical requests  
The below table is the number of specialty requests

FY	Number of Specialty Requests
2019/20	53599
2020/21	49879
2021/22	53581
2022/23	20539
Grand Total	177598

Q2 How many of those patients were subsequently discharged home from ED without being admitted (these are patients who are referred, but non-admitted)

A2 We have taken the above cohort of patients (177598) and looked at their disposal code to identify if they were not admitted.

FY	Non-Admitted
2019/20	7916
2020/21	8005
2021/22	9135
2022/23	3852
Grand Total	28908

Q3 How many patients with a total ED stay >12 hours from decision to admit:  
i. Were still under the care of ED (not having been referred to a general medical or specialty ward)?  
ii. Were referred to a specialty (were general medical or specialty ward patients)?

A3 The total number of 12+ hour patients

Row Labels	Total 12 + Waiters
2019/2020	601
2020/2021	205
2021/2022	3854
2022/2023	2833
Grand Total	7493

**NONE** were still under the care of ED when they were discharged from hospital.

ii. **ALL** the patients who waited 12+ hours were admitted to a hospital bed.

**Q4 How many patients with an ED stay of >12 hours from decision to admit were discharged home from ED without actually being admitted?**

A4 This is a similar question as Q3i.

Out of the 7493 patients who waited 12+ hours no patients were discharged home without being admitted first.

**Q5 What was the longest recorded wait in A&E for a patient who was referred to a general medical or specialty ward but were subsequently discharged home from ED without being admitted?**

A5 From arrival to ED the patient, who had a specialty referral, spent 18 hours in the department until they were discharged home from ED without been admitted to a hospital bed.

\*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).



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,

*L Carlisle*

Leah Carlisle  
**Head of Data, Security & Protection/ Data Protection Officer**