



**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 2022/23-275

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding cardiac surgery.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022 we contacted you via email as we required a timeframe in order to collate the information

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022 you replied via email with:

*'Questions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 relate to the current situation at your trust.'*

*Question 4 asks how many procedures each surgeon has done i.e. the dates are from the date the surgeon first performed this procedure to now. It would be helpful if the date range over which the surgeon has been doing this procedure is stated.*

*For question 7, please state the proportion of all relevant procedures undertaken at the Trust (since this procedure was started) that involved the stated complications.'*

On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 we emailed you with:



Thank you for the clarification below, however we asked you for a specific time frame in order for us to collate the information

You replied the same day with:

*'Other Trusts asked the same questions have been able to answer without any problem or need for clarifications.*

*"Current" relates to the most recent position at your Trust. Do you currently offer these procedures or not? If you need a date, use the date of the enquiry.*

*Regarding the number of relevant procedures ever done by the surgeon - I don't know what date any of the surgeons may have started performing the relevant surgery so I can't give a start date. It will be different for each surgeon. The surgeons keep logs though and therefore the Trust does hold this data. If you are still unable to answer and really need a start date then please use 1/1/1980 (highly likely before the technique was introduced in the UK) to 1/7/2022.*

*Similarly for the complications for these procedures at your Trust, I don't know if and when your Trust started undertaking these procedures. However, I would accept data from 1/1/12 to 1/7/22 if it is not possible to provide it for all relevant procedures ever undertaken at the Trust.*

*Again, all other Trusts approached were able to answer the questions in the initial request, so I believe the request was clear.'*

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 could you help with the attached request for information regarding minimally invasive cardiac surgery at your Trust?**

- 1. Does your Trust currently undertake “keyhole” (minimally invasive) mitral valve repair? For clarification, I am asking about thoracoscopic surgery / mini-mitral surgery / mini-thoracotomy rather than a transcatheter mitral valve repair.**

**If yes, please could you kindly answer the following questions?**

A1 This is not a procedure that is currently undertaken at UHNM, we do have a plan to review this but at the current time we do not offer this.

**Q2 Is your Trust able to offer the following procedures combined via a “keyhole” approach (accepting that an additional incision would be required):**

- a. Mitral valve repair
- b. Left atrial appendage closure
- c. AF ablation
- d. +/- CABG (of diagonal branches) if required during surgery?

A2 It is not something that we offer at the Trust.

**Q3 Which of your surgeons perform this procedure?**

A3 Not applicable

**Q4 How many of these procedures has each consultant performed?**

- a. Mini-mitral valve repairs
- b. Mini-mitral valve repair + LAAC + AF ablation

A4 We do not currently offer 'mini' procedures.

**Q5 Do they routinely use robot assistance for mini-mitral valve repairs?**

A5 We do not distinguish between mitral valve repairs and mini-mitral valve repairs therefore we are unable to advise how many of these procedures have been performed.

**Q6 What is the median (or average if you don't have the median) and maximum waiting time for mini-mitral valve repair at your Trust?**

A6 As we do not distinguish between mitral valve repairs and mini-mitral valve repairs we are unable to advise how long patients have waited.

**Q7 For this procedure, what are your Trust's rates of:**

- a. Conversion to open
- b. 30-day mortality
- c. Serious adverse events e.g. stroke, MI etc
- d. Re-operation during admission
- e. Failure of procedure to achieve intended benefits (i.e. a significant improvement in mitral regurgitation)

A7 See answer 6

\*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,



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