Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-685

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

Date: 9th March 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 21st February 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Treatment waiting list.

As of 1st 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   I am writing to submit an FOI concerning waiting times for consultant-led treatment, for both inpatient and outpatients.

Firstly I would like to give some context to aid in the interpretation of my request. I am familiar with the NHS England Consultant-led Referral to Treatment Waiting Times statistics that are published monthly, and am looking for more specific figures about patients who leave this waiting list. I know leaving the waiting list could be because of a range of scenarios - the patient has had the scan/procedure/appointment they were waiting for, they have refused treatment, they have failed to show up and therefore been removed from the waiting list etc.

My request:

I would the following data broken down by month for between December 2018 to January 2023:

1) How many patients left the waiting list for whatever reason? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they left more than one waiting list.

A1   I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this question, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link:

Number of patient who have left the Consultant led Referral to Treatment waiting list data is available monthly on NHS England's statistics page. The data required is the admitted pathways and non admitted pathways.

https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/

Q2 **Of these, how many left the waiting list because they were admitted as an emergency and treated for the condition their referral related to during their emergency stay, therefore ending the treatment waiting pathway? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they left more than one waiting list. Please note that the Welsh government has outlined how this may occur on page 8 of this guidance here: https://senedd.wales/media/ycspv5fr/hospital-waiting-times.pdf**

A2   See below:

Month	Removal Reason	
	Treated as an Emergency	Patient Deceased
Dec-18	4	151
Jan-19	3	190
Feb-19	5	157
Mar-19	4	148
Apr-19	6	146
May-19	3	170
Jun-19	6	130
Jul-19	2	170
Aug-19	4	159
Sep-19	3	145
Oct-19	5	131
Nov-19	10	166
Dec-19	6	135
Jan-20	11	136
Feb-20	5	111
Mar-20	3	125
Apr-20		132
May-20	2	141
Jun-20	7	136
Jul-20	10	104
Aug-20	8	100
Sep-20	6	126
Oct-20	5	119
Nov-20	8	200
Dec-20	5	192
Jan-21	4	217
Feb-21	2	178
Mar-21	9	157
Apr-21	12	183
May-21	4	161

Jun-21	14	154
Jul-21	7	213
Aug-21	10	168
Sep-21	7	213
Oct-21	4	214
Nov-21	16	196
Dec-21	6	241
Jan-22	4	257
Feb-22	8	197
Mar-22	6	222
Apr-22	12	189
May-22	5	187
Jun-22	4	203
Jul-22	11	228
Aug-22	7	234
Sep-22	3	179
Oct-22	14	239
Nov-22	7	216
Dec-22	9	252
Jan-23	8	263

Q3 **And of these (patients in question 1), how many left the waiting list because they died? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they were on more than one waiting list when they died.**

A patient could be subject to multiple different referrals, so I would like data based on the referrals rather than individual people i.e. if a person dies while on three waiting lists for instance, I would like them to be counted as three referral waiting periods/RTT pathways ending due to death.

A3 Refer to answer 2

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.

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

Yours,

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records