



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-156

Date: 15th June 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 12th June 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding self-inflicted injury.

On the same day we contacted you via email as we require clarification what you are referring to as self-inflicted injury, as this is too generic, please supply a list

You replied via email with:
'Apologies for not being clear. I am referring to self-harm, wounding, overdose, poisoning or suicidal thoughts.'

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 How many attendances at your Trust's accident and emergency department/s were because of self-inflicted injury in 2019?

A1 For the following questions (1, 2 & 3) the following chief complaints have been used to identify the cohort of patients referred to in the questions.

Drug / alcohol Intoxication or withdrawal, Poisoning, Self-harm, Self-injurious behaviour, Substance misuse and Suicidal thoughts.

It is to be noted that for poisoning we do not distinguish between self-inflicted poisoning and accidental poisoning for example where a small child has swallowed a dishwasher tablet etc., this is accidental but will be included in the below figures.

Total Number of Patients = 6026 (Please note this is not distinct patients, so if a patient has attended twice for one of the above conditions then is will be counted as 2)

Q2 How many attendances at your Trust's accident and emergency department/s were because of self-inflicted injury in 2022?

- A2 Total Number of Patients = 3657 (Please note this is not distinct patients, so if a patient has attended twice for one of the above conditions then is will be counted as 2)
- Q3 How many of the recorded attendances for self-inflicted injury in 2019 and 2022 at your Trust's accident and emergency department/s also had comorbidities of anxiety disorder or depressive disorder?**
- A3 We do not record co-morbidities on the ED record, this may be held in the triage notes or paper records, however it will require someone the manually review the 9000+ records to ascertain this information. Section 12 exemption as detailed below:

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

- Q4 How many attendances at your Trust's accident and emergency department/s were recorded (all types of attendances) in 2019 and 2022?**

- A4 The below total is for Royal Stoke & County ED Departments

2019 = 174,102
2022 = 158,737

*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.

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