



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-220

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

Date: 1st August 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your emails dated 31st May 2023, 26th June and 6th July requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Hours spent in A&E (2022/23), Restraint and mental health

On 1st June 2023 we contacted you via email as UHNM has received several requests that are asking for similar information that are from the same person/company, therefore we are contacting you to inform you that under section 12 of the FOI Act we were aggregating these requests on Hours spent in A&E (2022/23) and Restraint

Your new reference number for **both** is 126-2324- now 220-2324 for all 3

The section 12 exemption states:

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from:

- **The same person or**
- **People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.**

We have also been asked to contact you to seek clarification on your request. Your request states

“1. The occasions when children, who attended A&E with their chief complaint being mental health related, were restrained by staff, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

2. The total number of children, who attend A&E with their chief complaint being mental health related, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

Also please refer to your previous FOI 703-2223 which informs you that UHNM is not a mental health Trust”

On 7th July 2023 you replied via email with:

‘Could you please provide me with info where a patient has presented with the following: Self-injurious behaviour (finding) / Suicidal (finding) / Suicidal thoughts (finding) / Substance abuse (disorder) / Depressive disorder (disorder) / Anxiety (finding) / Bizarre behaviour (finding) / Physical aggression

(finding) / Hallucinations (finding) / Alcohol intoxication delirium (disorder) / Alcohol withdrawal syndrome (disorder)?'

On 6th July 2023 we contacted you via email as UHNM has received several requests that are asking for similar information that are from the same person/company, therefore we are contacting you to inform you that under section 12 of the FOI Act we were aggregating these requests on Hours spent in A&E (2022/23), Restraint and mental health

The reference for all is 220-2324

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.

Request #1(formally ref 112-2324)

Q1 The total time, in hours, children spent in A&E, in the financial year 2022 to 2023, where their chief complaint was mental health related.

A1 For the following questions (1, 2, 3 & 4) the following chief complaints have been used to identify the cohort of patients referred to in the questions.

Anxiety, Bizarre behaviour, Depressive Disorder, Depressive Feelings, Drug / alcohol intoxication or withdrawal, Hallucinations, Hallucinations/delusions, Physical aggression, Self-harm, Self-injurious behaviour, Substance misuse and Suicidal thoughts.

And children have been identified as 0-17, adults 18+.

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 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*

Q2 The total number of children who attended A&E, in the financial year 2022 to 2023, where their chief complaint was mental health related.

A2 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 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*

Q3 The total time, in hours, adults spent in A&E, in the financial year 2022 to 2023, where their chief complaint was mental health related.

A3 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 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 your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

Q4 The total number of adults who attended A&E, in the financial year 2022 to 2023, where their chief complaint was mental health related.

A4 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 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 your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

Request #2 formally ref 126-2324

Q1 I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your NHS Trust. Please may you provide me with?

1. The occasions when children, who attended A&E with their chief complaint being mental health related, were restrained by staff, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

A1 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 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 your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

Q2 The total number of children, who attend A&E with their chief complaint being mental health related, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

Please provide this data in a table format.

A2 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:

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/> FOI 199-2324 answers this and there are many others.

Request #3

On 17th July we contacted you via email as we required the following clarifications

Q1: if that the longest amount for the whole period or for each year?

Q2: clarify if that the longest amount for the whole period or for each year? Plus what are we classing as a child? Age range?

On 19th July 2023 you replied via email with:

'Can you please provide the longest individual amount (longest incident) for each financial year? Also for the age range, can you please provide me with children aged between 0-17 and adults 18+?'

Q1 Please may you provide me with?

1. The single longest amount of time, in hours, that an individual adult spent in A&E, where their chief complaint was mental health related, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

A1 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 not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records (for the 5 years requested = 28276 patient notes) . 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*

Q2 The single longest period of time, in hours, that an individual child spent in A&E, where their chief complaint was mental health related, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

Please provide this data in a table format.

A2 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 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*

*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