



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-766

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

Date: 4th March 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 12th February 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding drug admissions

On 13th February 2024 we contacted you via email with the following:
To continue with your request we require clarification on the following:

Please provide clarification on what you mean by drug related issues, as this is too vague

On the same day you replied via email with:

'We are looking for information on overdoses that would be found from substance abuse. This doesn't necessarily mean illegal substances alone. We aren't seeking information on alcohol abuse.'

It might be useful for me to let you know that [REDACTED] is currently running a campaign to have monkey dust reclassified as a Class A drug. For this reason he is keen to get data on drug abuse.'

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 emailing on behalf of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would like to make a FOI request to ask how many admissions were made to the Royal Stoke A&E Department for drug related issues for Jan 2023- Jan 2024.

A1 Unfortunately, we don't record the reason why the patient attended ED on Careflow – this may be held in the patients note history – section 12 exemption- see below:

However, we do record diagnoses made whilst in ED. There are 2,123 attendances for the period 01/01/2023 – 31/01/2024 who had an overdose diagnosis applied to their ED record.

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 your 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

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

