



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-392

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th November 2021 (received into our office 8th November) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding patient outliers and harm.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 In each month since April 2019, (i.e. please give figures for month separately) please could you tell me:**  
**1. The number of instances where surgery patients have been admitted to wards which are not primarily intended for the conditions they were admitted for (Sometimes known as ‘Surgical outliers’)**

**A1** Ward swap between divisions is dependent on the current demand for services especially during the winter periods and now more than ever due to Covid 19.

We do not keep historical information/snapshots of who owns wards as there is no requirement for us to do so.

To answer this question we have used the current ward allocation position, it is to be noted wards may have moved during the 3 years therefore we cannot with 100% assurance state the below is a true reflection at those specific points in time.

The below table shows the number of admissions who were initially admitted under a surgical specialty and their ward on admission was either to a Medical or Specialised Ward.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Apr	1	0	1
May	1	1	1
Jun	0	7	0
Jul	2	0	0
Aug	0	0	0
Sep	1	0	1
Oct	0	2	2

Nov	1	0	0
Dec	0	0	
Jan	8	0	
Feb	7	0	
Mar	7	0	

**Q2 The number of instances where medical patients have been admitted to wards which are not primarily intended for the conditions they were admitted for (Sometimes known as 'Medical outliers')**

A2 Ward swap between divisions is dependent on the current demand for services especially during the winter periods and now more than ever due to Covid 19.

We do not keep historical information/snapshots of who owns wards as there is no requirement for us to do so.

To answer this question we have used the current ward allocation position, it is to be noted wards may have moved during the 3 years therefore we cannot with 100% assurance state the below is a true reflection at those specific points in time.

The below table shows the number of admissions who were initially admitted under a medical specialty and their ward on admission was either to a Surgical or Specialised Ward.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Apr	2	5	7
May	1	4	5
Jun	2	2	4
Jul	4	1	5
Aug	1	1	2
Sep	0	2	2
Oct	4	2	6
Nov	3	7	10
Dec	7	14	
Jan	22	14	
Feb	15	1	
Mar	2	3	

**Q3 Of these instances, how many resulted in patient harm - please categorise as moderate/severe etc.**

A3 An instance of a patient being an 'outlier' isn't reportable as an incident; therefore this information is not held.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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.

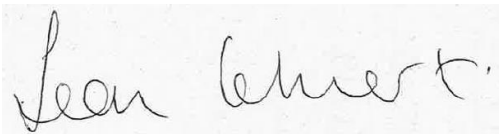
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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,



Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**