



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-341

Date: 3rd October 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 13th September 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding violent incidents.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because some of the information requested in questions 2 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in all hard copy incident reports. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all hard copy incident reports 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 hard copy incident reports 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. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 Please can you tell me how many violent incidents against staff at the trust's A&E departments have been recorded each year over the past five years?

A1 Please refer to the table in answer 2

Q2 Please include the nature of the violence (e.g. verbal, physical), whether the police were called and what action was taken against the perpetrator.

A2 Please see below; note action taken by the Police is not recorded on the incident record, therefore this information is not held by UHNM.

| Year | Physical | Non Physical | Total | Police Called | Action |
|------|----------|--------------|-------|---------------|--------|
|------|----------|--------------|-------|---------------|--------|

| | Assault | Assault | violent incidents recorded | | Taken |
|---------|--|---------|----------------------------|----|----------|
| 2018/19 | 36 | 179 | 215 | 56 | Not held |
| 2017/18 | 61 | 264 | 325 | 50 | Not held |
| 2016/17 | 43 | 225 | 268 | 27 | Not held |
| 2015/16 | Section 12 exemption as detailed above | | | | |
| 2014/15 | Section 12 exemption as detailed above | | | | |

*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 676474.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager

