



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-750

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding responses our Trust has made since 1st January 2018 to FOI requests that relate to either rheumatoid arthritis or severe asthma.

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 questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual FOI requests. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all FOI requests 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 FOI requests and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Under the Freedom of Information (FOI) act, please could you provide, in its original format, any response your Trust has made since 1st January 2018 to FOI requests that relate to either rheumatoid arthritis or severe asthma.**

**To avoid any confidentiality conflict, please can ensure that your response(s) are redacted for confidential information.**

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding FOI requests that relate to either rheumatoid arthritis or severe asthma, 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.uhn.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

Please note that this link is periodically updated. To assist you the FOI's that we are able to identify are as follows:

August 2018/19 =ref 281-1819

October 2018/19 = ref 385-1819 and ref 399-1819

December 2018/19 =ref 540-1819

January 2018/19 = 595-1819



Please also note that other requests may hold information regarding rheumatoid arthritis or severe asthma in the body the questions but under a different heading: - we are unable to split these out under section 12 exemption of the FOI Act: 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.***

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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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle  
**Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance**