



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-593

Date: 22nd December 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 16th November 2023 and 4th December 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding MRI scans and radiation dose recording

We replied via email with the following:

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 MRI scans and radiation dose recording

Your new reference number for BOTH is 593-2324

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.

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 (542-2324)

Q1 The number of MRI scans performed for the following,

- **Central Nervous System**
- **Brain**
- **Spine**
- **Other Surrounding Tissue**
- **Whole Body**
- **Head & Neck**
- **Thorax, including Breast**
- **Abdomen, including Liver & Kidneys**
- **Pelvis, including Prostate**
- **Musculo-skeletal system**

- **Other**
- **Cardiac**
- **Angiography**

A1 Please note – figures are based on examinations performed, where patients have had more than one exam during a single visit – each exam code has been counted individually. UHNM does not typically count activity using above list – therefore a best fit approach has been taken. Some nationally recognised codes may fit under multiple options (Example – Musculoskeletal vs Soft tissue)

Count of Exam Key FOI Grouping	Financial Year Full				
	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Abdomen, including Liver & Kidneys	2953	3429	3994	4193	4818
Angiography	554	651	812	514	575
Cardiac	4199	4110	4701	2980	3916
Central Nervous System	139	128	157	125	147
Head & Neck	26552	28653	32302	28488	35248
Musculo-skeletal system	5951	6556	7500	5589	7633
Other Surrounding Tissue	10	16	20	6	12
Pelvis, including Prostate	3201	3821	4798	4276	6073
Spine	18574	19761	21499	19226	22600
Thorax, including Breast	954	852	858	849	976
Whole Body	8	5	30	25	38

Q2 The number of MRI scans for the above listed investigations using a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent(s)

A2 Please note – figures are based on examinations performed, where patients have had more than one exam during a single visit – each exam code has been counted individually.

All contrast events are based on above agent.

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Total	8820	9144	9888	9173	10031

Q3 The average number of doses of a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent(s) per scan

A3 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5
This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Generally <5

<5 for Cardiac related

Q4 The number of rescans, which are performed due to the outcome of a poor-quality image when using a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent in the initial scan.

A4 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5
This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Please note – figures are based on examinations performed, where patients have had more than one exam during a single visit – each exam code has been counted individually.

Based on Contrast examination & Technical recall flag code being applied to the event.

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Total	8	5	9	8	<5

Q5 The number of rereports required due to the outcome of a poor-quality image when using a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent in the initial scan.

A5 Please note – figures are based on examinations performed, where patients have had more than one exam during a single visit – each exam code has been counted individually.

See Answer to Q4

Request #2

Q1 Do(es) your hospital(s) have a software system capable of patient radiation dose recording and management in radiology? (Note: this could be a stand along product or be part of a PACS or other radiology platform solution)

A1 Yes

Q2 If so, is it a commercially available system or a system free of cost to use?

A2 Commercially available

*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