



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

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

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-153

Date: 23rd July 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 10th June 2021 (received into our office 11th June) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding waiting times.

On 11th June 2021 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarifications:

Q1. Can we clarify what you mean by “seen, treated and admitted/discharged”? Do you mean the longest time a patient spent in AE from the time they arrived in AE to the time they left the department, or do you mean the longest period a patient waited to be seen, the longest period a patient waited to be treated and the longest period it took for a patient arriving to leave the department?

Q2. Can we clarify what you mean by “non-urgent conditions”. The consultants prioritise patients on a clinical need, there are no “non-urgent conditions” as all conditions can be urgent. Therefore please can you confirm you are happy for us to use the national data dictionary standard for priority type – please see the following link PRIORITY TYPE (datadictionary.nhs.uk) to identify “non-urgent” patients.

On the same day you replied via email with:

Q1: *I mean the longest time a patient spent in A&E from the time they arrived in A&E to the time they left the department (eg: admitted or discharged)*

Q2: *Yes please use the national data dictionary standard*

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 your questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual 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 individual 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*

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 (UJNM) 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 write under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.

1. What is the longest period of time a single patient waited in A&E to be seen, treated, and admitted/discharged during calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (Year to Date)? Please provide any details concerning why the patient waited this length of time and what their ailment/s were?

A1 Please note – the below is taken from the validated bed wait information:-

- 2018 – 40 hours
- 2019 – 52 hours
- 2020 – 25 hours
- 2021 – 30 hours

We are unable to give reasons as to why the patient waited this amount of time and what their ailments were. Section 12 exemption as detailed above

Q2 What are the top 10 longest periods of time a single patient waited to start consultant-led treatment from referral for non-urgent conditions during calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (Year to Date)? Please provide any details concerning why the patient waited this length of time and what their ailment/s were.

A2 Please note – this is the criteria applied:-

- Top 10 longest waits from referral to treatment for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 is from 1st January to 31st May as June data is not yet validated
- Only clock stops for first definitive treatment (RTT status 30) and Referral Priority of Routine
- Only first clock (initial referral to first treatment) are included

	Weeks Waited									
2018	502	492	428	337	281	243	208	191	156	142
2019	709	641	182	73	69	68	66	66	65	64
2020	185	128	119	118	101	98	86	83	80	79
2021	332	268	266	107	106	106	106	104	103	102

We are unable to give reasons as to why the patient waited this amount of time and what their ailments were. 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.

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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.

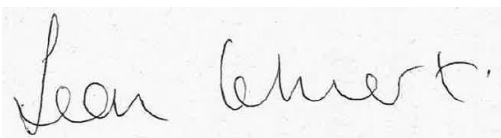
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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