



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-712

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

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding thoracentesis and IO.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 you contacted us via email with the following:  
*“Apologies, there was a minor error in my request.*

*Q5 should simply read as:*

*How many times was needle decompression performed on patients in 2017, 2018, 2019?”*

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 we contacted you via email with the following statement:

**The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

**However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.**

**We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.**

**The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.**

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 If possible, I would like to know the following:**

**1. What intra-osseous (IO) access devices are used within the Trust?**

A1 Please refer to the attached spread sheet

- Q2** How many times was IO access used on patients in 2017, 2018, and 2019?
- a. If this information is not available, how many IO devices were purchased in each year 2017 - 2019?

A2 Please refer to the attached spread sheet

- Q3** In which department or clinical setting are the majority of IO procedures performed? E.g. ED, critical care etc.

A3 Please refer to the attached spread sheet

- Q4** If an IO access device is used, how is the needle normally stabilised whilst transferring the patient to other departments? E.g. by using a specialist stabilisation device or dressing, taping the needle in place etc.

A4 Due to the current Covid-19 crisis UHNM has been unable to source this information to date. We will keep a note of your request and will respond with the information, once the current state of emergency as passed

- Q5** How many times was needle decompression (thoracentesis) performed on patients in 2017, 2018, 2019?

**Amended:**

**Q5 should simply read as:**

**How many times was needle decompression performed on patients in 2017, 2018, 2019?**

A5 As answer 4

- Q6** In which department or clinical setting are the majority of needle decompression procedures performed? E.g. ED, critical care etc.

A6 As answer 4

\*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.

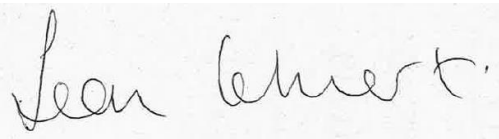
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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