



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-650

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

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding mental health and cancer patients.

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 health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access 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*

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 This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act of 2000. My request relates cancer patients seeking NHS mental health services.**

**I would like to request the following information:**

**1) The total number of cancer patients who have been referred by you to mental health services during their treatment cancer under your services, in each year since 2010.**

A1 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

**Q2 A breakdown of that total figure into categories for the reason given for the cancer patients' referral, in each year since 2010.**

A2 As answer 1

**Q3 A breakdown of that total figure into categories for the kinds of cancer that referred patients are suffering.**

A3 As answer 1

**Q4 Details on average waiting time that cancer patients have faced while waiting for referral to mental health services each year over the past 10 years.**

A4 As answer 1

\*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](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,



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert  
Information Governance Manager

