



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-369

Date: 14th January 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 30th November 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding covid-19.

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.

Q1 Please can you tell me how many cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19 the Trust has had since 1st March 2020?

- **Please state the date the case was discovered**
- **The name of the hospital and the ward/department where the patient was**
- **The outcome for the patient (i.e. recovered, died)**
- **Whether any staff were also affected (if so, please state how many and the area of the hospital where they work).**

Please also include any information that was shared with Public Health England on these cases.

A1 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, see attached spread sheet. Note: the data only covers DEFINITE hospital acquired cases from March through to November 3rd 2020.

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

Staff records do not indicate if Covid-19 was “hospital-acquired” where staff tested positive therefore this information is not held.

*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.

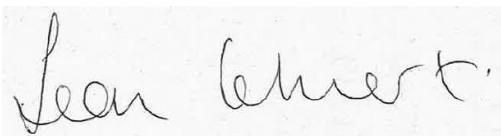
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

