



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-500

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

Date: 5thJ January 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 29th November 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding County Hospital

On 30th November 2022 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

1. At what point of a patients care are they deemed 'End of Life' please clarify
4. How are you categorising a Best, Worst and Median time from admission for palliative patients?
6. Comparison of data by wards – compared to what?

On the same day you replied via email with:

'The issue is I want to know the numbers of elderly patients being placed on end of life care with all that entails before it might be alleged, an adequate time as been spent treating them for the condition they went in with. I would like to know by age ranges (you decide - but I an 80 plus age range needs to one) when deaths occurred and how many were on end of life care on a ward by ward basis.

I would like to know how quickly after admission this decision to put patients on end of life care is made on those who are 60 plus. Just by raw data - let's say those put on it after 1 day on admission those after four days, and those after 14 days. I am not interested in this in percentages, just numbers.

All this data requested compiled for each ward rather than the hospital in its entirety so that each wards stats can be compared with other wards. In short are there wards where a greater number of patients are dying on end of life care and if so is that ward also the highest in speed of putting a person on such end of life care on the shortest time after admission.

I am particularly interested in comparisons of data between individual wards of 12, 14 and 15, and those on the lower floors of the hospital like ward 7 etc. I have a hypothesis that this data might confirm.'

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 I would like data on the following areas please spanning the last five years.

1. The number of deaths by ward at the County Hospital on which patients were on end of life care.

A1 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 this question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual death/health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual death/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 death/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*

Note:

- *Approximately 1000 patient records would need to be reviewed*
- *Careflow does not record when a patient is put on End of Life care*
- We do not record the reason why they were admitted
- Death certification information is not held on Careflow or by the Trust in any electronic form

Q2 Of these deaths the age ranges as percentage of total deaths and treatments.

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Q3 For the age ranges 60 and above the condition that originally caused them to be admitted.

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Q4 The time from admission best, worst and median from when they were admitted to when they were put on end of life care.

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Q5 The top reasons for death entered on the death certificate as percentages.

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Q6 A comparison of the data divided by wards.

I assume this data can be retrieved since it must surely feature in basic quality monitoring and evaluation. Without it the ability to track such important variables and respond to obvious issues would be impossible and the quality assurance of the hospital undermined.

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*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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,



Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection/ Data Protection Officer