

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-463

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding laparoscopic sterilisation.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 we contacted you as we required the following clarification.

Do you want information on patients who've come in specifically to be sterilised or to include those patients who, due to a course of treatment (such as ectopic pregnancies) have been subsequently sterilised?

Also, does the 'sterilisation' need to be for both fallopian tubes? (Bilateral)

You replied the same day with the following:

*"Patients who've come specifically to be sterilised through laparoscopic approach and both fallopian tubes unless an absent tube due to congenital abnormality or previous surgery"*

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 the number of laparoscopic sterilisation done over the last 3 years?**

A1 As per your clarification above: please see below.

Row Labels	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
Grand Total	113	58	93	264

**Q2 How is laparoscopic sterilisation performed?**

- **Filshie clips**
- **Hulka clips**
- **Salpingectomy**
- **Other**

A2 Please see below: With regard to this part of your request, we regret to inform you that University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust takes the view that some of this information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 41(1)(a) and (b) of the 2000 Act. The reason why the Trust takes this view is because the numbers are low. With this, and any other publicly available information, the public could identify the deceased or other living persons identifiable through association. In addition we are also applying Section 40(2) of the FOI Act.

*Personal information.* However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers, and have provided this below.

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

Row Labels	2016	2017	2018
Q222 - Bilateral Salpingectomy NEC	<5	6	8
Q352 - Endoscopic Bilateral Clipping Of Fallopian Tubes	106	52	83
Q359 - Endoscopic Bilateral Occlusion Of Fallopian Tubes Unspecified	<5	0	0
Q354 - Endoscopic Bilateral Placement Of Intrafallopian Implants	<5	0	0
Q361 - Endoscopic Occlusion Of Remaining Solitary Fallopian Tub	0	0	<5
Q234 - Salpingectomy Of Remaining Solitary Fallopian Tube Nec	<5	0	0

### **Q3 Failure rate: pregnancy following lap sterilisation over the last 3 years**

- A3 Based on Patient match (Unit and NHS number) we do not have any patients who have been bilaterally sterilised and subsequently notified of an active pregnancy  
 \*\* Please note: we're unable to reliably state 'failure' rates as we have no guarantee that ladies who've had the procedure here would go on to have a pregnancy that we've subsequently been informed about, and may not include any miscarriages prior to any hospital booking appointment

\*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](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,



Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**