



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

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

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-294

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 27th August 2022 (received into our office 25th August) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Neonatal Sepsis Guidance.

**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.**

On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 we contacted you via email as we required a timeframe in order to collate the information

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 you replied via email with:

*'Please treat 'the last year' as from 27/8/2021 to 26/8/2022.'*

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 Is your Trust involved in the medical care of infants in the first 72 hours of life?  
If no please answer only the above question and respond to this request**



If yes, I would be grateful if you could also answer the following:

1. Do you have a guideline for the investigation and treatment of early onset infection/sepsis in neonates (names will vary)?

A1 Yes to both

**Q2 Does your guideline use NICE or Kaiser Permanente criteria for assessment of infants at risk of early onset neonatal sepsis?**

A2 UHNM use NICE criteria. We don't use KP calculator.

**Q3 Within your early onset neonatal sepsis guideline what are the indications for lumbar puncture?**

A3 We perform lumbar puncture depending on clinical assessment (if there are features indicative of CNS infection)

**Q4 How many lumbar punctures has your Trust carried out in infants under 72 hours of age in the last 12 months?**

A4 42

**Q5 How many of these had positive CSF cultures (not including bacterial PCR)?**

A5 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

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

**Q6 How many infants under 72 hours of age were diagnosed with meningitis in the last 12 months in your Trust?**

A6 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

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

**Q7 How many infants between 72 hours of age and 7 days of age were diagnosed with meningitis in your Trust?**

A7 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

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

\*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 671612.



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of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Yours,

*L Carlisle*

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

