

Sarah

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-760

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

Date: 27th February 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 12th February 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding FMG

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 to request the following information from your Trust – acute, mental health, or otherwise.

1. How many patients have come into your care with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) that was noticed and/or attended to, between January 2014-February 2024 calendar years?

NOTE: Please specify if the data is relating to a physical or mental health concern and please make sure to list the physical and mental health concerns separately.

A1 Unfortunately due to changes in patient record systems we are unable to obtain accurate figures prior to June 2017. FGM was not centrally recorded in a way we can easily extract.

Please note that UHNM is not a mental health Trust, and we have provided all the information new are able to. Section 12 exemption applies for any physical and mental health concerns- see below:

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 health records (for the time period asked for = 254 notes). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all 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 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*

Date range 01-06-2017 – 31-01-2024

Where the same patient has presented at our service more than once throughout the report period they have been counted ONLY ONCE – by their first recorded FGM contact date
Acute Trust:

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.

Years	CareContactdate	Total
2017	Jun	<5
2017	Jul	<5
2017	Aug	<5
2017	Sep	<5
2017	Oct	<5
2017	Nov	<5
2017	Dec	<5
2018	Jan	<5
2018	Feb	<5
2018	Mar	<5
2018	Apr	5
2018	May	<5
2018	Jun	9
2018	Jul	<5
2018	Aug	<5
2018	Sep	<5
2018	Oct	<5
2018	Nov	6
2018	Dec	<5
2019	Jan	<5
2019	Feb	8
2019	Mar	6
2019	May	<5
2019	Jun	<5

2019	Jul	5
2019	Aug	<5
2019	Sep	6
2019	Oct	5
2019	Nov	<5
2019	Dec	<5
2020	Jan	<5
2020	Feb	<5
2020	Apr	<5
2020	May	<5
2020	Jun	<5
2020	Jul	5
2020	Aug	<5
2020	Sep	<5
2020	Oct	6
2020	Nov	<5
2020	Dec	0
2021	Feb	6
2021	Mar	<5
2021	Apr	6
2021	May	<5
2021	Jun	<5
2021	Jul	<5
2021	Aug	<5
2021	Sep	<5
2021	Oct	0
2021	Nov	<5
2021	Dec	<5
2022	Jan	5
2022	Feb	<5
2022	Mar	<5
2022	Apr	<5
2022	May	<5
2022	Jun	<5
2022	Jul	<5
2022	Aug	<5
2022	Sep	<5
2022	Oct	<5
2022	Nov	<5
2022	Dec	<5
2023	Jan	<5
2023	Feb	<5
2023	Mar	<5

2023	Apr	<5
2023	May	6
2023	Jun	<5
2023	Jul	<5
2023	Aug	6
2023	Sep	<5
2023	Oct	5
2023	Nov	6
2023	Dec	<5
2024	Jan	<5

Q2 Between January 2014 to February 2024: how much has the Trust spent (or how much has it cost) for the following things relating to FGM, where relevant:

2a) corrective FGM (whatever actions need to be taken to correct or improve the damage caused by FGM)

2b) surgery

2c) procedures (non-surgical)

2d) appointments for mental health – counselling, therapy, group therapy etc.

This includes mental health Trusts dealing with any form of secondary treatment for FGM as I appreciate acute Trusts would look after primary physical care.

NOTE: Please specify if the data is relating to a physical or mental health concern and please make sure to list the physical and mental health concerns separately.

A2 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this question, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link:

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/> FOI ref 675-2324 December 2023

Q3 How many FGM-related deaths has your Trust seen between January 2014- February 2024? Please specify how if FGM was a primary or secondary cause of death.

For each of these 3 questions and the sub-sections, could you provide the data in calendar year and could you split the data by month and year (e.g. January 2014, February 2014).

Please provide all of this data in a machine readable format, ideally CSV and provide answers to each question in a separate tab (in this case 3 tabs).

To stress, my questions require answers covering all ages.

I understand that a public authority has 20 working days to comply with information requests.

I would therefore be grateful if you could provide your response within the statutory time frame . As I have sent this email on the 9th of February, a response by the first week of March at the absolute latest, would be appreciated.

If a response is not received by the statutory limit, I intend to complain to the Information Commissioner and request assistance in this matter. Additionally, if it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

A3 No UHNM care FGM related Deaths recorded during date range indicated

*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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

