

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-708

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

Date: 22nd March 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 6th March 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding clinical negligence.

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 From April 2018 to March 2023 (or the latest date available), please provide yearly figures for how much was paid out in clinical negligence settlements for patients treated in neurosurgery departments.

A1 See below:

Closure/ Settlement Year for PPO	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Claimant Costs Paid	Total Paid
2018/19	1	28,685	15,769	40,000	84,454
2019/20	3	57,730	15,232	97,500	170,462
2021/22	2	134,500	13,263	66,070	213,833
Grand Total	6	220,915	44,264	203,570	468,749

**Q2 Please provide current figures for how many patients are on the
a) spinal waiting list,
b) cranial waiting list.**

A2 See below:

- a) Total Spinal IPWL = 344
- b) Total Cranial IPWL = 74

Q3 Please provide current information for how many vascular surgeons are employed by the Trust.

A3 UHNM has 2 Substantive Neuro Vascular Consultants.

Q4 Please provide figures for how many patients in the P2 priority category are currently on the neurosurgery waiting list, the longest wait and the median wait. Please break down by spinal and cranial surgery.

A4 See below:

Cranial IPWL

- 22 listed as P2's
- Longest P2 waiter is 86 weeks on RTT pathway.
- Median Wait for P2's is 23 weeks on RTT pathway.

Spinal IPWL

- 19 listed as P2's
- Longest P2 waiter is 106 weeks on the RTT pathway
- Median Wait for P2's is 23 weeks on the RTT pathway.

Q5 From April 2018 to March 2023 (or the latest date available), please provide yearly figures for how many arteriovenous malformations (AVMs) were operated on within the Trust, and how many were instead referred to other trusts.

A5 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. 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*

Q6 Please detail:

- a) how many current vacancies there are within the Trust's neurosurgery department,**
- b) how many staff members are on long-term sick leave,**
- c) how many are on some form of return to work support,**
- d) how many days have been lost to sick leave in each year from April 2018 to March 2023 or the latest date for which figures are available,**
- e) how many locums are currently engaged by the department.**

A6 See below:

- a) x1 Due to recent retirement (Interviews 16th March)
- b) 0
- c) 1
- d) 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019 = 7 days
1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 = 0 days
1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 = 10 days
1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022 = 108 days
1st April 2022 – 8th March 2023 = 101 days
- e) At Consultant level 0 at Junior Doctor Level x1

*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,



Rachel Montinaro



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

