



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-203

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Stafford Hospital.

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 questions 1 (a) and (c) 2, 4, 6, 9 and 12 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health/departmental 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 health/departmental 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*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

On the same day we contacted you via email as we required clarification on the following:  
Do you require 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017 to Oct 2018, Or October 2017 to current date?

You replied via email the following:

*"The questions relate to 31st October 2018 and in order to get a full picture I would like the information requested to date back a full year from that date (31st October 2017) and project forward to the current date. Hence the FOI request is seeking information from 31st October 2017 to 10th July 2019 (inclusive)".*

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 Under Freedom of Information could you please send me details to the following questions connected to Stafford Hospital and going back to 31st October 2017 (i.e. 12 months back from 31st October 2018) to the current the date.**

- A) How many deaths in Stafford hospital are recorded as due to sepsis and in what wards did the deaths occur?**
- B) Please state the total deaths in that hospital so I can calculate the percentage of sepsis deaths relative the total occurring.**
- C) Also the total number of patients admitted as red flag emergencies with what is believed to be Sepsis that went on in to Ward 15 and the numbers that recovered or died. Would it be possible to establish this on a monthly basis from 31st October 2017 to now?**

A1 Please see below:

A) How many deaths in Stafford hospital are recorded as due to sepsis and in what wards did the deaths occur?	Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above
B) Please state the total deaths in that hospital so I can calculate the percentage of sepsis deaths relative the total occurring.	To identify “deaths” we have used the discharge method data dictionary value ‘5’.  For the period 31/10/2017 – 10/07/2019 = 744
C) Also the total number of patients admitted as red flag emergencies with what is believed to be Sepsis that went on in to Ward 15 and the numbers that recovered or died. Would it be possible to establish	Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

**Q2 What is the distribution of where people are moved to in the hospital (Which ward - including ITU/HDU) having been admitted with potential red flag sepsis. i.e. What wards are the primary treatment places for a person with sepsis?**

A2 Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

**Q3 Where would a 20 to 35 year old patient normally be sent from AMU having been admitted with suspected red flag sepsis?**

A3 They can be managed on AMU; unless their condition deteriorates in which case they would be transferred to the Critical Care Unit

**Q4 How many initial red flag sepsis admissions turn out to be not sepsis how is that determined and how long does it normally take to establish this?**

A4 Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

**Q5 If a patient is flagged up as having developed difficulty swallowing while in AMU and needs assessment how long does it normally take to be assessed and if noted in AMU**

**should this not have been assessed in AMU? Are patient's routinely moved from AMU prior to the full diagnostic picture emerging?**

A5 Swallow assessment service is available on working week days between 9am – 5 pm. patients are usually assessed within 24 hours between Monday – Friday. Patients can be moved to other wards prior to full diagnostic tests.

**Q6 How many deaths within ward 15 of Stafford hospital are recorded as due to pneumonia as a percentage of the total recorded deaths in that ward and across the hospital?**

A6 Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

**Q7 What is that total number of deaths in ward 15 as a percentage of the total within the hospital?**

A7 20.97%

**Q8 How many deaths in ward 15 are attributed within the records as “suddenly deteriorated unfortunately died” (or words to that effect) where the NEWS Vital Pac score has been good up to the sudden point.**

A8 Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

**Q9 How many admissions to ward 15 are for conditions that could be described as a solely acute medical condition rather than chronic care or an acute condition arising out of a chronic condition complication?**

A9 Sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

**Q10 What is the age distribution across the hospital wards?**

A10 18 years and over

**Q11 Which wards are primarily geared to serious life threatening acute medical conditions?**

A11 None currently. AMU takes people with acute medical illness and if anyone has life threatening condition. They will be assessed and if appropriate, they are transferred to either Critical care unit or Speciality ward at Royal Stoke.

**Q12 What is the defined purpose of ward 15 and what are the staffing levels, broken down into roles/grade in comparison with other wards (including general medical wards, ITU/HDU etc.). Is it possible to include this as a staff: patient ratio and to look at staffing solely within the wards rather than for example medics rushed in from other wards? Please also include information during the day and at night.**

A12 Ward 15 is a 28 bedded elderly care ward at County hospital treating acute medical conditions in the elderly; there are 4 stroke rehab beds within this.

Nursing ratios are:

- Early shift 5 RN and 5 HCA's

- Late Shift 4 RN and 5 HCA's
- Night Shift 3 RN's and 4 HCA's

Ward 14 is a 28 bedded acute general medical ward

- Early Shift 5 RN's and 4 HCA's
- Late Shift 4 RN's and 4 HCA's
- Night shift 3 RN's and 4 HCA's

Should patients require 1-2-1 nursing support following assessment then there is a SOP in place and extra staff are requested to support via the nurse bank

Ward 15 (Elderly Care Patient Ward) (minimum junior doctor cover x 3 )

- 2 x FY1
- 4 x GPVTS
- 1 x CT1
- 1 x FY1 (Stroke)
- 1 x FY1 (Neuro)

Ward 14 Gen Med (minimum junior doctor cover x 3 )

- 2 x FY1
- 2 x FY2
- 2 X CMT both vacant( x2 locums in post)
- 1 x GPVTS
- 1 Part time ANP

Ward 12 Respiratory (minimum junior doctor cover x 3)

- 2 x F2 (1 vacant post- Locum in post)
- 1 x GPVTS
- 1 x Trust Grade vacant (locum in post)
- 1 part time ANP

Acute Medical Unit (minimum junior doctor cover x 4)

- 4 x FY1
- 1 x GPVTS
- 1 x CMT
- 1 x Trust Grade vacant (Locum in post)

Ward 7

3 x SHO Trust Grades (all vacant and filled by locums).

Nights

- 1 X SPR

- 1 x SHO
- 1 X FY1

\*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.

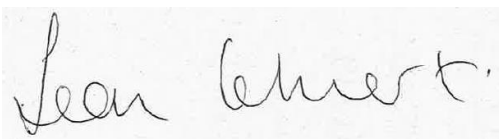
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Information Governance Manager

