



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-330

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

Date: 9th October 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 9th September 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding ophthalmology.

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 question 2 and partial question 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual 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 individual 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*

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 if 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 2nd October 2019 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on what you meant by clean room.

On 4th October 2019 you replied via email with the following:

"Here is the RCO (Royal College of Ophthalmologists) definition of a "clean room"

"For outpatient delivery, an enclosed, dedicated clean room (as defined by the local Infection Control Team) is required. This room should be used for clean (non-infected) cases only and, when in use, be free from interruption. Where ventilation has less than 10 air changes per hour a local risk assessment should be undertaken and agreed with the local infection control team. Units should monitor the local incidence of presumed infectious endophthalmitis after intravitreal injection and have an agreed threshold for action."

It basically differs from a normal outpatients clinic room because it has a ventilation system but likely be located in an eye unit. Not to be confused with an eye theatre though as that has a completely different air supply to a "clean room"

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 How many "clean rooms" exist within your ophthalmology units?

A1 As per your clarification above, UHNM has one "clean room".

Q2 What proportion of ophthalmology 1st and follow-up outpatient appointments were associated with a diagnosis of?

- a. primary open angle glaucoma
- b. age-related macular degeneration
- c. diabetic macular oedema

For the years 2016/17 and 2017/18?

A2 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

Q3 How many SLT (selective laser trabeculoplasty) machines do you have in your ophthalmology units and how many procedures were performed in 2016/17 and 2017/18?

A3 The Trust has one SLT machine; we are unable to identify how many procedures performed in 2016/17 and 2017/18 are for this specific machine as all patients for laser treatment are booked on a generic code.

Q4 How many C69.3 (injection into anterior chamber of the eye) procedures were performed in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and what were the split between theatre and clinic?

A4 Please note these figures ONLY relate to patients admitted to hospital as an inpatient. For UHNM to ascertain whether the procedure was undertaken in a theatre this would require us to manually check each patient record to check this: section 12 exemption as detailed above.

Financial Year	Procedures Undertaken
2016	14
2017	43
Grand Total	57

*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.

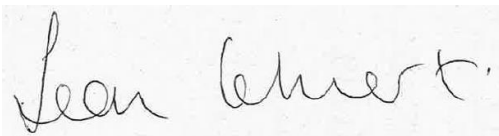
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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