

**Information Governance Department**

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Date Received: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015  
Response Due: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

Dear ,

## **INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

We are now pleased to respond to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked:

- 1) *How many people have attended the hospital thinking they have/ or are suspected of having Ebola since the outbreak began?*
- 2) *Please provide basic details of each case. Please state whether the patient was a man or a woman, what symptoms they had, and when and how they arrived at the hospital.*

Questions 1) and 2)

Refusal Notice: having considered the Public Interest Test, due to the low numbers involved the Trust is applying Section 40 personal data and therefore we are unable to provide any further details.

Due to the low numbers involved there is a high risk that a living individual could be identified from the information that has been requested or from that information and other information that may be available. To disclose this information would:

- a) contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

- 3) *In each case, what action was taken?*

Procedure was followed as detailed below and then stood down.

- 4) *What equipment has been provided to staff to deal with any suspected cases of Ebola?*

Protective clothing e.g. Suits.Mask, gloves, wellingtons and appropriate training

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5) *If a suspected case arrived at the hospital, what would the procedure be? What action would be taken?*

Quickly triage and isolate into the decontamination room. Staff apply PPE and further triage the patients against the DoH Ebola pathway and if triggered liaise with Infectious disease Doctors at North Manchester Hospital in line with the Greater Manchester PHLS Ebola pathway.

I hope you find this information useful, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 256335. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

**Rob Forster**  
Acting Chief Executive

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, WrightingtonHospital, Hall Lane, AppleyBridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

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