



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-043

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

Date: 18th December 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 21st April 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Bariatric equipment

On the same day we contacted you via email as we require clarification on what you mean by specialist bariatric equipment/ special adaptations; please send a list of what you are looking for.

You replied via email with:

'By special adaptations, I mean either specialist equipment (including but not limited to beds, cannulas, hoists, wheelchairs, body bags, etc.) or adaptations made to standard equipment due to make it usable for obese/bariatric patients. This includes use of any bariatric equipment owned or rented by the Trust or adaptations to Trust-owned or rented equipment to make it suitable for bariatric patients, regardless of where this equipment is located.'

Here is a non-exhaustive list of bariatric equipment:

- *Bariatric beds and mattresses, and sheets to fit these specialist beds/mattresses*
- *Bariatric beam seats, chairs, and couches*
- *Bariatric commodes and shower chairs*
- *Bariatric wheelchairs*
- *Hoists or gantry hoists for bariatric patients*
- *Bariatric slings and limb slings*
- *Trocars and cannulas for bariatric patients*
- *Bariatric body bags*
- *Electric back rests'*

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 Under The Freedom of Information Act 2000, could you kindly answer the following questions:

1. How much has your Trust spent on specialist bariatric equipment for obese/bariatric patients (patients over 160kg) during the last five financial years? Please give a figure for each year: 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23

A1 See below:
2018/2019 - £190K
2019/2020 - £117K
2020/2021 - £140K
2021/2022 - £157K
2022/2023 - £131K

Q2 How many patients needed special adaptations due to their weight in the past 12 months?

A2 Information not held

Q3 Please give a breakdown of the amounts spent by the Trust by the type of specialist bariatric equipment.

3.1 If equipment is used on a rental contract basis, please provide a list of contracts, including the values and suppliers.

A3 See below:
Bariatric beds etc, £550k
Bariatric Chairs etc, £110k
Hoists etc, £25k,
Commodes £25k
Miscellaneous £10k

Equipment spend is on a rental basis and is based on the last 5 years approximately,
Current supplier 1st Call Mobility/Arjo

Q4 How many bariatric beds does the Trust own?

A4 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 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual 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 individual 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*

Q5 How many bariatric fridges does the Trust own?

A5 See below:
RSUH - 18
County - 3

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records