

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-164

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

Date: 7th August 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 5th August 2020 (received into our office 6th August) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid travel

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

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 I am looking into the arrangements that Trusts will be making to support staff with travel during the winter months.

Given the potential for resurgent COVID-19 waves, ongoing localised lockdowns as well as annual winter pressures, I am looking into arrangements that Trusts will be making to support their staff in getting to and from work during 1 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021.

Please can I have a response to the following question?

1. What plans do you have in place to support staff with travel to and from work between 1st December 2020 to 31st March 2021: in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns, locally or nationwide?

[Such as: booking hotel rooms; hiring private accommodation; paying for taxis; creating special rest rooms]

Example of data:

Q1. What plans do you have in place to support staff with travel to and from work between 1st December 2020 to 31st March 2021, in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns, locally or nationwide?

A1. We are booking hotel rooms within walking distance to staff's place of work.

A1 The Trust would book accommodation via the national system or put local accommodations plans in place. The Trust continues to offer on-call rooms/facilities at our Royal Stoke and County Hospitals as well as following the national position on this

*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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager