Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-111

Date: 6th June 2018

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 17th May 2018 (received into our office 18th May) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding self-funded procedures.

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   Please can you tell me whether the Trust allows patients to self-fund for any of the following procedures?
**   A.   Hip replacements**
**   B.   Knee replacements**
**   C.   Cataracts**

A1   The Trust allows patients to self-fund for all the above procedures

Q2   If yes to all or part of question 1, please can you tell me how much the Trust charges for:
**   A.   hip replacements**
**   B.   knee replacements**
**   C.   cataracts**

**   (Please provide fees for any of the procedures which can be self-funded at the Trust)**

A2   Please see below: Hospital charges (excl Consultant, Anaesthetist fees) are:
                    A. £5,839 - £6,477 (excl prosthesis)
                    B. £7,462 (excl prosthesis)
                    C. £862

Q3   Please state the average waiting time (as of May 2018) for patients who self-fund for
**   A.   hip replacements**
**   B.   knee replacements**
**   C.   cataracts**

A3   Not applicable: The Trust does not currently have any self-funding patients.

Winter pressures have meant that Trauma and Orthopaedic department has had a reduced bed stock and therefore treating self-funding patients would disadvantage NHS patients

Q4 **Please state the average waiting time (as of May 2018) for patients who have the following treatments provided by the NHS at the Trust:**
  A. **hip replacements**
  B. **knee replacements**
  C. **cataracts**

A4 Information not held.

Q5 **Has the Trust always enabled patients to self-fund or has it only been introduced recently, e.g. past five years? I understand this may be difficult to answer**

A5 The Trust has enabled patients to self- fund for at least the last 12 years.

*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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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,

Mojgan Casillas
Interim Information Governance Manager