



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-609

Date: 9th February 2023

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 23rd January 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Sodexo

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 an outpatient at the hospital and attended an appointment on 20 January 2023. Due to the nature of my treatment, I am required to stay in hospital for approximately 6 hours at a time. During my stay yesterday, I was offered a sandwich box from nursing staff, which I declined, however this led to a discussion with other patients. I understand that a typical sandwich box costs the service in the region of £27.00. I believe the typical contents of the box are a pre-packed sandwich, small juice, yoghurt and potentially a bag of crisps or biscuit.

This is provided by your catering provider Sodexo. Under this FOI request, I would like a response on the following:

- What is the justification for Sodexo to charge such an amount for a sandwich box, in which the constituent parts could be purchased for less than £5.00?

A1 We are unsure as to where the cost of £27.00 per snack box request has been obtained from, but can confirm that Snack Boxes cost the Trust less than £2.50 per request, which contain a sandwich, juice cup drink, yoghurt and either crisps or biscuits.

Q2 What procurement exercise took place by the Trust to agree for a figure of £27.00 to be charged?

The financial challenges that the NHS are currently facing are very well publicised. The care I have received since becoming an outpatient at the hospital last year has been exemplary, however it seems to be a blatant profiteering from the private catering provider.

A2 The catering services are not part of a procurement exercise as all additional costs associated with the provision of patient catering are part of a contract for the provision of catering services at the Royal Stoke site. The Trust regularly compares data from similar size Trusts to ensure that costs associated with these services is comparable.

*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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

