

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-482

Date: 26th February 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 27th January 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding potholes.

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 researching potholes in car parks at the NHS hospitals throughout the UK.

Please could you provide the following information relating to potholes across your estate in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000?

1. Please detail the annual spend for potholes on your estate since 2015

A1 Royal Stoke site: Average around £25k per annum on repairs to surfaces and potholes.
County site: We do not spend every year, only when required. On average, we estimate that the annual spend is approximately £4000 - £5000

Q2 Please detail how much compensation has been paid out for any damage to vehicles/people due to potholes on your estate since 2015.

A2 Royal Stoke site/ County site:

UHNM has no record of compensation paid.

Q3 How many potholes have been repaired on your estate, annually, since 2015?

A3 Royal Stoke site: A number of potholes have been repaired since 2015, we estimate in the order of 15-20 a year. This also includes defective block paving and on-going repairs to car parks that are metalled temporary areas.

County site: Information not held as repairs are detailed in area, not number of potholes

Q4 How long do the pothole repairs normally last?

A4 Royal Stoke site:

Repairs can be of an emergency nature which would be expected to last several months until further repairs are carried out which we would expect to last as long as the existing surrounding road surface.

It is not possible to put an exact timescale as finish type, amount and type of traffic, condition and age of the surface (as they are all different) and weather conditions throughout the year can all have an effect.

County site: This depends on the location and the amount/type of traffic they are exposed to.

Q5 Are the pothole repairs guaranteed?

A5 Royal Stoke site: Some repairs are carried out by DLO (Direct Labour Organisation), the in house maintenance team and would not be covered by a guarantee. Other repairs procured by Term Service Contract would have a 6 month guarantee. Repairs procured via a traditional contract route would have a guarantee specified under that contract which can differ.

County site: No

Q6 How many potholes are there across your estate at present?

A6 Royal Stoke site: There are approximately 12 areas that are suffering from surface degradation.

County site: Information not held as survey details condition of area, not number of potholes

Q7 How frequently are the car parks checked for potholes?

A7 Royal Stoke site: Bi-Monthly.

County site: The car parks are checked weekly

Q8 How many occasions were the potholes not repaired due to lack of funding?

A8 Royal Stoke site: Nil

County site: Information not held as funding is always made available.

*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.

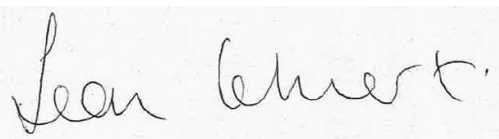
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager