



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-130

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 17th June 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 7th June 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding staff social media policy.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 Do you have a staff social media policy?

A1 Yes

Q2 Do you have a policy or guidance on staff use of messaging apps, such as WhatsApp, Siilo, and Forward?

A2 Yes

Q3 Does your Trust actively discourage the use of WhatsApp?

A3 Yes

Q4 In the past two calendar years, have any staff been formally disciplined for the inappropriate use of messaging apps at work (i.e. for sharing clinical information) or for using unapproved messaging apps? If yes, how many?

A4 None

Q5 Are you aware how many staff use WhatsApp for work-based communication with colleagues? If yes, how many?

A5 Trust Policy states this is not permitted

Q6 Have you recommended or implemented a messaging platform for use across your Trust? If yes, which app or platform do you use?

A6 Skype for business only

*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.

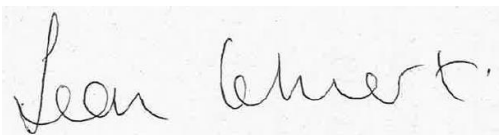
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager