



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-414

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

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding food waste.

On the same day we contacted you via email as UHNM has received several requests that are asking for similar information that are from the same person/company, therefore we are contacting you to inform you that under section 12 of the FOI Act we were aggregating these requests on food waste and food waste ( these request are identical from the same press office)

Your new reference number is for both is 414-2122

The section 12 exemption states:

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from:

- The same person or
- People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Request #1

**Q1 I would like to request the following information under Freedom of Information.**

**1. For the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (so far) how many tonnes of food was wasted by your Trust?**

A1 See below:

**County:**

2019/20 not recorded;

2020/21 not recorded;

2021/22 YTD - so far an average of 4.8 tonnes, 7.2 tonnes projected for the year

**Royal Stoke:**

Catering is provided by the Trust's PFI partner, therefore food waste information is not held by the Trust

**Q2 For the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (so far) how much did the wasted food cost the Trust?**

A2 See below:  
**County:**

2019/20 - not recorded;

2020/21 - not recorded;

2021/22 - Difficult to analyse currently, this is work in progress. Plated patient waste is currently measured by weight with no cost attributed at the moment.

**Royal Stoke;**

Catering is provided by the Trust's PFI partner, therefore food waste information is not held by the Trust

**Q3 Under the Government's new blueprint for better hospital food launched October 2020 it was recommended every hospital should implement a digital meal ordering system by 2022 to collate food choices, manage allergies and diets, and minimise waste. Please explain what steps, if any, the Trust has taken to implement a digital ordering system?**

A3 UHNM has a fully established and integrated digital meal ordering system (SAFFRON).

**Q4 The blueprint also recommended NHS Trusts should agree on a common method of monitoring food waste. Please explain what steps, in any, the Trust has taken to implement a method of monitoring food waste?**

A4 See below:  
**County;**

An Aerobic Bio-Digester has been installed to handle all food waste. The effectiveness is currently being analysed. Food disposed of at Ward level, cannot be monitored as this will form part of the Domestic waste stream.

**Royal Stoke:**

Catering is provided by the Trust's PFI partner, therefore food waste information is not held by the Trust

## Request #2

**Q1 I would like to request the following information under Freedom of Information.**

**1. For the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (so far) how many tonnes of food was wasted by your Trust?**

A1 As request #1

**Q2 For the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (so far) how much did the wasted food cost the Trust?**

A2 As request #1

**Q3 Under the Government's new blueprint for better hospital food launched October 2020 it was recommended every hospital should implement a digital meal ordering system by 2022 to collate food choices, manage allergies and diets, and minimise waste. Please explain what steps, if any, the Trust has taken to implement a digital ordering system?**

A3 As request #1

**Q4 The blueprint also recommended NHS Trusts should agree on a common method of monitoring food waste. Please explain what steps, in any, the Trust has taken to implement a method of monitoring food waste?**

A4 As request #1

\*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.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

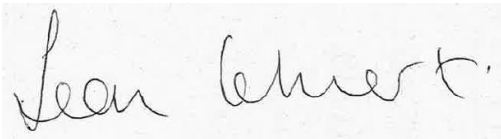
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**