



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-025

Date: 25th April 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13th April 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding coding.

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

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 I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) to request the following information from your procurement and contracting department:

1. Is the coding department using:

- a. a fully digital record to code from, or**
- b. a hybrid digital record whether part of the record is scanned from paper,**
- c. is it still using paper records for all or part of its coding?**

A1 b. hybrid digital record whether part of the record is scanned from paper

Q2 What is the current size of the clinical coding establishment?

A2 A total of 40.3 WTE. This includes auditors, trainer, team leaders and deputy head

Q3 How many of the team are contract clinical coders?

A3 Two, not included in above totals above as they are only short-term

Q4 Do your team work remotely?

A4 A large percentage of the team work remotely

Q5 How many of your team are ACC qualified?

A5 17

Q6 How many of your team are trainees?

A6 Two

Q7 Are there any specialities where your coders must come to an office to code?

A7 No

Q8 Do you use a company to undertake all or part of your clinical coding?

A8 No

Q9 9. If Yes to question 8,
a. what percentage of your FCEs is coded by them?
b. what is the annual value of the contract,
c. what was the start date of the contract,
d. what is the term of the contract,
e. what is the name of the company delivering the contract?
f. How was this contract procured?

A9 Not applicable

*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.

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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.

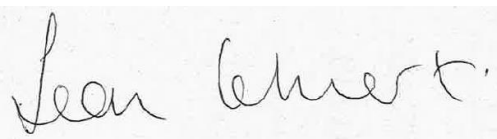
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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