



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-536

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

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 7th November 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) data breach incidents and responses

**Q1 I would like to submit an Fol request to your organisation.**

**Data breach incidents**

- **How many data breaches has your organisation experienced in the past 36 months from today's date?**
- **What types of data (e.g., personal, financial, health records) were compromised in these breaches, if any occurred?**
- **Did any of these breaches include ransomware attacks?**

A1 Since November 2021, there have been 4 ICO reportable Data Breaches. These involved the disclosure of special category and PID, none included ransomware attacks.

**Q2 Data protection and backup strategies**

- **How frequently does your organisation back up critical data and systems?**
- **Are backups stored in an immutable format to prevent tampering or encryption by malicious actors?**
- **Do you plan to apply Zero Trust best practices to your backup storage strategy?**
- **Which backup management software and backup storage solutions do you use?**

A2 The Trust has considered this Freedom of Information request and whether the release of information of this nature could then be used to compromise the Trust Information Systems. The Trust has concluded that, if such information was to be released, then this could potentially expose the Trust to risk of compromise. In turn, this could compromise the safety and security of patients and staff. In accordance with Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act, where it is considered that release of such information would expose the Trust to such risks then only information deemed to not pose a threat to the security of the Trust Information Systems will be released. The Trust will not therefore be responding to this question"

In addition, the Trust is applying sections 24(1) and 23(1) exemptions

I can neither confirm nor deny that the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is exempt from disclosure under section 24(1) which states "Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if the exemption from section 1(1) (b) 2 is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security." Furthermore, withholding this information is also supported by the Freedom of Information Amendment (Criminal Intelligence) Act 2004

**Q3 Response and recovery**

- **Do you have an incident response plan, and do you regularly use it?**
- **How long did it take you to recover following a breach or ransomware attack?**
- **What percentage of data was recovered?**

A3 There have been no ransomware attacks on our Trust.

\*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:



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,

**Leah Carlisle**  
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records  
Data Protection Officer