



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-104

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding collection tubes

***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 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.

**Q1 How do you obtain blood collection tubes for liquid biopsies on cancer patients?**

A1 The items are ordered via the NHS Supply Chain catalogue

**Q2 From what suppliers do you obtain these products?**

A2 NHS Supply Chain supply the Trust with the Becton Dickinson products

**Q3 Were these products purchased through a tender or framework? If so, which one? Please provide details including the name, reference and where this was published**

A3 Information not held by UHNM; the tender process for any Framework Contract would have been carried out by NHS Supply Chain as part of their national NHS offering. You may be able to obtain information from the following: <https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/>

**Q4 Are you under contract with your current supplier(s) for the above? If so, what is the start and end date of the contract?**

A4 There is no direct contract between the Trust and the manufacturer of the Tubes (Becton Dickinson) the Trust currently uses the NHS Supply Chain supply route and the Contract between NHS Supply Chain and its supplier would have been organised by Supply Chain not UHNM- see answer 3

**Q5 Can you provide the name and contact details for the person(s) responsible for procuring these products?**

A5 The Contract for the Tubes would be negotiated with the manufacturer by NHS Supply Chain and not by the Trust. The point of contact would be NHS Supply Chain- see answer 3

**Q6 Can you provide contact details for the department responsible for managing this service?**

A6 The laboratories in which the tubes would be used fall under the remit of the Trusts Children's, Women's and Diagnostic Division which is based primarily at the Royal Stoke University Hospital site, Newcastle Road, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire. ST4 6QG

\*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

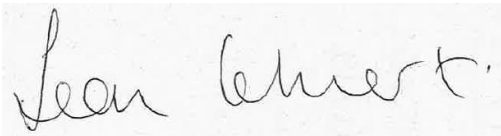
still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

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](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,



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