

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-136

Date: 3rd August 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 22nd July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding orthotic products

You contacted us via email with the following:

"I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the University Hospitals of North Midlands. I originally wrote in Late April, and have left a good length of time for a response due to COVID-19, but nearly 3 months have elapsed.

I would like information on the spend on ready-made orthoses and podiatry products, orthotics services and other associated orthotics products. In addition I would like the spend on Vascular therapy products such as AES Stockings, Compression Devices (IPC) and associated products. Please provide a list of all suppliers of the above categories with spend details for 2018 and 2019 calendar year in the form of PDF or in excel.

I confirm I am not a freelance journalist, rather a research associate".

We replied via email asking for the reference number that we would have acknowledged this request with as we had no record of this request or of your name.

You replied the same day with:

"Thanks for your response. I believe I may have had email issues in April, as I did not get a response. Could you resubmit as a new enquiry?"

On 23rd July 2020 we contacted you via email as we had received a read receipt to our email to yourself which clearly showed another individual and email return address, therefore we asked you under section 8 of the FOI Act to confirm to whom we were responding to?

*Under section 8(1) of the FOI Act, requestors are required to provide a **real** name in order to make a request valid. The Information Commissioner states that a "title and/or first name with surname satisfies the requirement for provision of a real name, as does the use by a female applicant of her maiden name".*

Please can you confirm who is asking for this information and to which email address we will be responding?

As at current date UHNM has not received confirmation of your real name therefore this response is addressed to the two individuals who accepted read receipts.

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

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 (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 I would like information on the spend on ready-made orthoses and podiatry products, orthotics services and other associated orthotics products. In addition I would like the spend on Vascular therapy products such as AES Stockings, Compression Devices (IPC) and associated products.

Please provide a list of all suppliers of the above categories with spend details for 2018 and 2019 calendar year in the form of PDF or in excel.

A1 Please see below:

Supplier	2018 Sum Spend:
Cardinal Health UK 432 Limited	£65,000.00
Medtronic Ltd	£65,000.00
NHSSC	£260,165.23
Total	£390,165.23

Supplier	2019 Sum Spend:
Cardinal Health UK 432 Limited	£125,000.00
NHSSC	£245,393.06
Total	£370,393.06

*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.

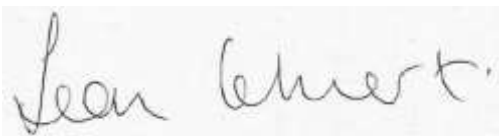
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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