



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-057

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

Date: 24th May 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 27th April 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Trust employees absent from work

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

On 28th April 2021 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

Q1 The number of Full time (FT) and Part Time (PT) employees in your Trust in split into Medical and Support staff

By "Medical and Support", are you asking for

- Medical staff headcount and their specific allocated support staff, eg medical secretaries
- Medical staff headcount and a headcount of all other staff in the Trust
- Or a headcount of Clinical staff and a headcount of Non Clinical Staff

Q6 The number of retired staff returning to the Trust from March 2021 onwards to practice during Covid-19.

- Regarding the reference "to practice", please clarify if you require all staff groups?

On the same day you replied via email with the following:

"In answer to the clarifications:

Q1 – Should be 'clinical' and 'non-clinical' staff

Q6 – should be from March 2020 (not 2021 – my mistake) and that is reference to all staff."

On 12th May 2021 we contacted you via email as we required further clarification:

What do you mean by Covid-19 infection control measures? For example if there was a 6 bedded ward but 2 beds were decommissioned to allow for social distancing is it the 2 beds you are referring to?

On the same day you replied via email with:

'To clarify, and using your example, yes it's the 2 beds I'm referring to.'

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 The number of Full time (FT) and Part Time (PT) employees in your Trust in:**
- March 2020 (Total number; split into Medical and Support staff)**
 - March 2021 (Total number; split into Medical and Support staff)**

A1 As per your clarification 'clinical' and 'non-clinical' staff

Staff Group	Headcount at 31st March 2020			Headcount at 31st March 2021		
	Full Time	Part Time	Grand Total	Full Time	Part Time	Grand Total
Clinical Staff	4706	3701	8407	4908	3945	8853
Non Clinical Staff	1321	1302	2623	1403	1259	2662
Grand Total	6027	5003	11030	6311	5204	11515

Note: Fixed Term and Permanent staff only

- Q2 The number of Trust employees absent from work during the months March 2020 to March 2021 inclusive, in the following format:**

Month	Total number absent	Absent due to Covid-19
March 2020		
April 2020		
etc		

If the data is held weekly, then please average the numbers across the month or provide the weekly data if easier.

A2 See attached document

- Q3 The number of Trust employees absent from work due to a Test and Trace requirement to isolate. As above, if the data is held weekly then please average the numbers across the month or provide the weekly data if easier.**

A3 Data is included in the 'Absent due to Covid-19' numbers in answer 3 and has not been held separately for the full period requested. A 'test and trace' category was introduced from 1st May 2020.

For the period 1st May 2020 to 30th April 2021 there were 1137 absence categorised as Covid-19 Test and Trace

Please note:

- We rely on the employee informing us that their isolation is a result of test and trace.

- The absence may or may not have been verified as test and trace isolation

Q4 The total number of beds across the Hospital(s) in your Trust

A4 See below:

- Stoke: 992 Core + 79 escalation = 1071 (escalation beds are only in winter)
- County: 185 Core + 12 escalation = 197

Q5 The total number of beds unused due to Covid-19 infection control measures (commonly referred to as 'red'/'green' pathways). Please provide these figures month by month from March 2020 to March 2021.

A5 As per the clarification above: From July 2020 through to March 2021 there were 48 beds decommissioned per month for social distancing purposes.

Month	Beds
Mar-20	0
Apr-20	0
May-20	0
Jun-20	0
Jul-20	48
Aug-20	48
Sep-20	48
Oct-20	48
Nov-20	48
Dec-20	48
Jan-21	48
Feb-21	48
Mar-21	48

Q6 The number of retired staff returning to the Trust from March 2021 onwards to practice during Covid-19.

A6 As per your clarification 'March 2020 (not 2021 – my mistake) and that is reference to all staff.' From March 2020 to 29th April 2021, 54 staff were recorded as having retired and returned

*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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<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.

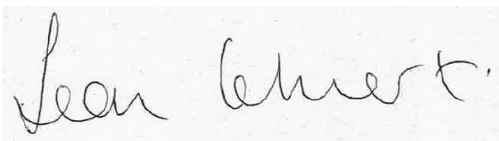
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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