



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-337

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding cyber-attacks.

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 Under the FOI Act 2000, I would like to request the following:**

**A list of all cyber-attacks (both failed and successful) on NHS hospitals falling under your remit, in each year since 2015 (including broader cyber-attacks which include these hospitals). Where possible, please could you split the data as follows?**

**Ideally, I am requesting only those cyber-attacks identified as or suspected of:**

- a) Coming from a source within Russia or China;**
- b) Emanating from any individual(s) or group(s) known to have, or suspected of having, links to the Russian or Chinese state. In each instance, please could you make clear which country the attack relates to?**

**If this is not possible, please could you make clear whether an attack is thought to have come from inside/outside the UK?**

**In each instance, I am also requesting the following information:**

- The severity of the attack, where it has been noted (e.g. low, medium, high).**
- The outcome of successful attacks. For example: were documents stolen (and how many)? Was confidential data stolen (and how much)? Were any operations or other NHS processes cancelled or delayed as a result (and how many)?**

**The cost to the NHS, where that cost is easily deductible/accessable. This could include but is not limited to**

- a) Delayed or cancelled operations, lost data, etc.;**
- b) The security/staffing cost of defending against an attack;**
- c) Any consequent legal costs e.g. lawsuits filed successfully against the NHS as a result of personal data theft.**

**If this part of the request is unduly onerous, please disregard.**

- A1 Release of this information potentially puts the Trust at risk and therefore is exempted under sections 31(1)(a) *the prevention or detection of a crime* and 38(1)(b) of the FOI Act. This section states: (1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to— (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

The Trust determines that to disclose this information would prejudice the Trust's ability to prevent and react to any cyber-attack. Cyber-attacks present a real risk of harm to members of staff and patients. The Trust has completed the public interest test and this has been upheld.

Additionally; the Trust will neither confirm nor deny it holds this information. This is because the revealing of facts enables others to utilise such data to identify weaknesses or strengths.

\*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.

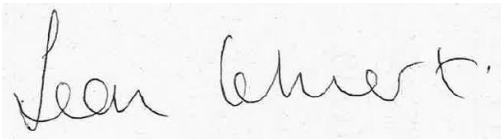
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

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