

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-136b

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

Date: 30th September 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th August 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding our response on total number of nurses- answered 31st July 2024

You stated via email the following requesting a second internal review:

'Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust's handling of my FOI request 'Total number of nurses and midwives referred to the NMC 2019-2023'.

Please provide the total number of referrals as requested

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeu-west-1.protection.sophos.com%2F%3Fd%3Dwhatdotheyknow.com%26u%3DaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2hhdG-RvdGhleWtub3cuY29tL3JlcXVlc3QvdG90YWxfbnVtYmVyX29mX251cnNlc19hbmRfbWlkd2lfMzA%3D%26j%3DNjYjdmdNDVjOTM5YTQxMThlOWFmYzZi%26t%3DcmFJZHpiNmZiVjdzNTZtbXFFRGhiWU-MzUS9McVNXSCtPT2IjVzJBcjNEUT0%3D%26h%3D6f46512a62e84c12b310e8b99e56ced4%26s%3DAVNPUEhUT0NFTkNSWVBUSVaMHIAMDScAjAikY-jGAC6Y3e-UntTodwiQadjsG5lQAUtC-xBT590rLNI8KTS1f6Y&data=05%7C02%7Cfoi%40uhnm.nhs.uk%7Ceedf247ee9f4494aa26208dcb534ef1e%7Cc52f36dcd35a4a8d9291804eb4965bd5%7C0%7C0%7C638584486153845774%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimc4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwLjCjXVCj6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C&sdata=J%2FxFxWSTi9JdRTqi2GliaHfX6S6BU0FDPe5%2FjEPPWQjGg%3D&reserved=0>

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) our Deputy Chief Nurse conducted the internal review. They examined all the information in relation to this request and found that the section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information* was correctly applied, and therefore supported the Trust's decision to withhold this information based on the reasons given in the response sent to you on 31st July 2024. A copy of our original responses is below for your reference.

On 16th July 2024 you contacted us via email with the following:

'Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust's handling of my FOI request 'Total number of nurses and midwives referred to the NMC 2019-2023'.

You have previously informed me of the following trust referrals to the NMC

2019 <5 nurses or midwives referred

2020 <5 nurses or midwives referred

2021 <5 nurses or midwives referred

2022 <5 nurses or midwives referred

2023 0 nurses/midwives referred

I requested the total numbers for 2019-2023. This is because according to the information you provided, the trust potentially referred up to 16 nurse which is not an insignificant number.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen-west-1.protection.sophos.com%2F%3Fd%3Dwhatdotheyknow.com%26u%3DaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2hhdGRvdGhleWtub3cuY29tL3JlcXVlc3QvdG90YWxfbnVtYmVvX29mX251cnNlc19hbmRfbWlkdmzA%3D%26i%3DNjJlYjdmNDVjOTM5YTQxMThlOWFmYzZj%26t%3DcmFJZHbjNmZlVjdzNTZtbXFFRGRhWUMzUS9McVNXSctPT2ljVzJBcjNEUT0%3D%26h%3Decacd455e9d2435dbd8fe4600f358901%26s%3DAVNPUeHUTONFTkNSWVBUSVaMHIAMDScAjaikY-jGAC6Y3e-UntTodwiQadjsG5lQAUtC-xBT590rLNI8KTS1f6Y&data=05%7C02%7Cfoi%40uhtm.nhs.uk%7C3137ca013fd741cb737408dca5e7b980%7Cc52f36dcd35a4a8d9291804eb4965bd5%7C0%7C0%7C638567661875190958%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAilCjQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTiil6k1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RVGtJl7px5BCXKpJdN%2BRAJb%2FIW9A3wfU05yldSdsH0%3D&reserved=0>

We replied asking which request this referred to.

You replied FOI reference **789-2324**.

Our response:

Your previous response referenced 789-2324 does not require an internal review as the ICO states: ***Internal review requests should be made within 40 working days of the initial response. You are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.***

We responded to 789-2324 on 05/03/24

Note: The figures were correct at the time of writing to the best of our knowledge however, the administrative support lead, who collates this information unfortunately had a period of bereavement leave and the figures have increased following their return as they have now been electronically inserted/updated and are correct to the best of our knowledge.

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 For the period 2019-2023 please provide the total number of nurses referred to the NMC.

A1 The following referrals to the NMC

2019 7
2020 8
2021 8
2022 7
2023 <5*

*We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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.

Yours,

Rachel Montinaro

Data Security and Protection Manager - Records