



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-337

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

Date: 26th September 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 20th September 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding WhatsApp.

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 Use of WhatsApp by or within the NHS Trust

Since January 2021, has the WhatsApp mobile application been used by the Trust, or any employee of The Trust (permanent or agency) in the course of their work at The Trust, either with patients or between employee groups? If so, please also provide details of how often WhatsApp has been used The Trust and for what purpose.

A1 We do not encourage the use of Whatsapp it and it is not pushed out to corporately owned devices by default. We are aware of its incidental use between Trust Colleagues but are unable to quantify the numbers of users and frequency of use. We are not aware of any use between Trust Colleagues and Patients.

*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,



Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection/ Data Protection Officer