

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-482

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 21st November 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 14th November 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding surgical robots.

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 1) Are surgical robots used for urology, gynaecology and general surgery in your Trust?
If yes:**

- 1a) How many surgical robots are in use in your Trust?**
- 1b) What is the name of the manufacturer of the surgical robot(s) and the model(s) used in your Trust?**
- 1c) What date was the surgical robot(s) purchased?**
- 1d) Are you currently planning to purchase a surgical robot(s) in the next 18 months?**

A1 Please see below:

1a) How many surgical robots are in use in your Trust?	I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding *how many surgical robots we use, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: <i>information reasonably accessible by other means.</i> This is because the information is available via the Trust’s public website at the following link: http://www.uhn.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/2019_2020.aspx FOI ref 010-1920 April 2019-20
1b) What is the name of the manufacturer of the surgical robot(s) and the model(s) used in your Trust?	As above
1c) What date was the surgical robot(s) purchased?	I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding surgical robots purchased date, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: <i>information reasonably accessible by other means.</i> This is because the information is available via the Trust’s public website at the following link: http://www.uhn.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/2019_2020.aspx

	and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/2019_2020.aspx FOI ref 392-192 October 2019-20
1d) Are you currently planning to purchase a surgical robot(s) in the next 18 months?	We will be leasing a new robot in early 2020

Q2 How many procedures were carried out with use of a surgical robot each year between 2013 to present - in the following specialities?

1. Urology
2. Bariatric surgery
3. Colorectal Surgery
4. General Surgery (e.g. cholecystectomy, hernia repair)
5. Gynaecology

A2 To identify procedures that have used a **robotic approach** we have used the following OPCS coding to identify this:-

- Y74.3 Robotic minimal access approach to thoracic cavity
- Y75.3 Robotic minimal approach to abdominal cavity
- Y76.5 Robotic assisted minimal access approach to other body cavity
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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.

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

Row Labels	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
100 General Surgery			<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
101 Urology	<5	12	70	96	112	146	102
104 Colorectal Surgery	<5			<5	17	53	33
106 Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery			<5				
110 Trauma & Orthopaedics					<5		
120 ENT						<5	
170 Cardiothoracic Surgery		<5				<5	
300 General Medicine							<5
303 Clinical Haematology		<5					
320 Cardiology				<5			
340 Respiratory Medicine							<5
420 Paediatrics				<5			
502 Gynaecology		<5	6	33	41	55	27

503 Gynaecological Oncology			<5	12	7	6	15
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Q3 How many consultant surgeons within your Trust perform robotic surgery for each speciality? Please supply breakdown by speciality.

A3 Please see below:

- Urology = 4
- Gynaecology = 5
- Lower intestinal/general = 4

**Q4 4a) How much did the Trust pay to purchase the robot(s)? If multiple surgical robots, please specify the price of each robot.
4b) How much has been spent on disposables for the robot(s) annually between 2013 - present?
4c) What is the total cost of maintenance for the robot(s) annually between 2013 - present**

A4 Please see below:

4a) How much did the Trust pay to purchase the robot(s)? If multiple surgical robots, please specify price of each robot.	As answer 1c
4b) How much has been spent on disposables for the robot(s) annually between 2013 - present?	As answer 1c
4c) What is the total cost of maintenance for the robot(s) annually between 2013 - present?	As answer 1c

*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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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.

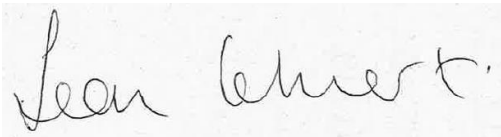
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager