



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-573

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

Date: 29th January 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 8th January 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding aortic valve implants.

On 16th January 2020 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on question 4, we asked, whether this question relates to the prosthesis itself or the total cost of the procedure?

On 21st January 2020 you replied via email with the following:

“The cost for the prosthesis itself”

The Trust uses 3rd party Purchase to Pay systems and information prior to 2017 (Q2-4) is not recorded in the format you are requiring for all these years and would therefore require us to extrapolate information from each system and create a new report to provide this. The FOI Act covers information held by the Trust, and we are not obliged to create new information in order to answer an FOI request, As well as creating new information, this would also take in excess of the 18 hours allowed for under the FOI Act, and would therefore be exempt under section 12: *cost of compliance is excessive*.

Question 4, commercially sensitive information relating to the price paid per item has not been disclosed here as we consider that under section 43(2) of the FOI Act: *prejudice to the commercial interests of any party*, is engaged. Disclosure of this information could be commercially detrimental to the Trust and companies acting on our behalf and result in less competitive prices for services. The likely consequence of this would be increased cost for service provision to the Trust. We have considered how the public interest might apply, and although recognising that there is a strong public interest in openness there is a greater public interest ensuring an ability to obtain best value for money.

In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your question is shortened to just information post to 2017 for question 1 we are able to comply within the 18 hours allowed for.

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 aortic valve replacement performed in your hospital from 2010 to 2019?**
- A1 Information not held prior to 2010. For the period April 2011 – December 2019 (inclusive) = 2991
- Q2 Which aortic valve implant types do you use and how many of each in your hospital from 2010 to 2019? (Biological/mechanical)**
- A2 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above
- Q3 Can you provide a breakdown of the number of biological and mechanical aortic valve used and includes the following information: implant prosthesis name, model and valve size from 2010 to 2019?**
- A3 As answer 2
- Q4 What was the cost of these prosthesis's per patient mentioned in Question 3?**
- A4 UHNM is applying Sections 12, 14 and Section 43(2) exemption as detailed above.

*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.

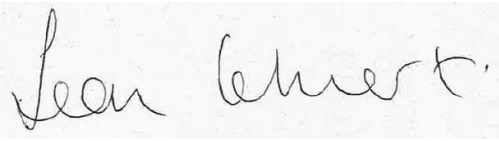
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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