



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

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

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-201

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 12th July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding RMO

**The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

**However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.**

**We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.**

**The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.**

On the same day we contacted you via email as we required a time frame

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 you replied via email with:

*'Please consider the date period 01/01/2020 to 13/07/2022.'*

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 I am writing to you to ask for information under FOI Act 2000 relating to the use of Resident Medical Officers [RMOs] also referred to as Resident Doctors and/or Senior House Officers [SHOs] supplied by agencies to your trust.**

**Please provide the following information:**

**Does the Trust use or has the Trust ever used RMOs supplied by agencies?**



A1 Yes

**Q2 If so, how many are being used currently? If you can't answer this, could you please tell us how many contracted hours do RMOs provide for the Trust per month or per year?**

A2 In week commencing 11th July 2022, there were 33 RMO's.

**Q3 How many hours would an RMO be working in any given week and any given month? What is their shift pattern?**

A3 The number would vary week by week.

As an example of a week – for week commencing 11th July, there were 33 RMO's. Their total hours came to 877 ranging from 7.5 to 50 hours.

**Q4 What are the departments within the Trust where RMOs work (for example orthopaedic, mental health, general medicine, surgery etc.?)**

A4 In the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> July

- Respiratory
- Nephrology
- Emergency medicine
- General Medicine
- Elderly Care
- Orthopaedics
- Breast Surgery
- Neurosciences
- Respiratory
- Oncology
- Oral surgery

**Q5 How much does the Trust pay to NES Healthcare Ltd (or any other NES company within NES Holdings (UK) Limited group) per hour per RMO? Please ideally break this down by grade and if it's not possible tell us the average rate.**

A5 Not paid

**Q6 If the Trust receives RMOs from agencies other than NES Healthcare Ltd please tell us the names of those agencies and rates paid to each per RMO per hour.**

A6 Payments made per hour are within the range £35 - £55 per hour

- RM Medics
- Holt Doctors
- ID Medical
- Accident & Emergency Agency
- Locum People
- ED Staffing
- NC Healthcare

- HCL Doctors
- Medecho
- Fresh Medical
- ProMedical
- Interact Medical Staffing

**Q7 What was the Trust's total spend on RMOs in 2020, 2021 and 2022? Please break this down by agencies supplying RMOs.**

A7 The Trust considers your request to be exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as to release this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust. The Trust has applied the public interest test to this request and feels that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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 we can comply with your request if we provide the total amount paid to all Agencies for the 3 years rather than a breakdown by Agency. See below.

Total spend on RMOs was:

- 2020: £4,340,983.89
- 2021: £3,764,299.89
- 2022 to June: £1,470,334.81

\*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.

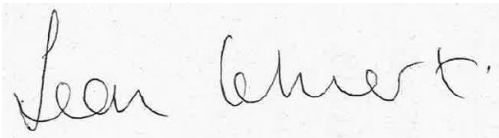
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



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