

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-392

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

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Da Vinci robot.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 kindly request information under the Freedom of Information Act.**

**It is now known that there is a substantial increase in the number of trusts within the English NHS that have implemented the Da Vinci robot. This has resulted in substitution effects across technologies within the prostatectomy specialty: firstly, laparoscopic procedures to replace open; secondly, robotic procedures to replace laparoscopic. We aim to address how this substitution has impacted diffusion to other surgical specialties, patient outcomes and labour productivity.**

**Questions for your Trust (in order of importance):**

**1. Does your Trust have a Da Vinci robot? If yes, please provide:**

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding Da Vinci robots, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link:

<http://www.uhm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/default.aspx>

FOI Reference 010-1920 April 2019/20

**Q2 The number of Da Vinci robots your Trust has.**

A2 As answer 1

**Q3 The date each robot was purchased.**

A3 July 2014

**Q4 The purchase costs of the Da Vinci robot(s) and approximate annual running/maintenance costs.**

A4 Please see below:

- Purchase cost approximately £1m
- Running costs = we are unable to split this out as it is part of a wider service
- Maintenance cost £140,000 plus vat per year

\*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.

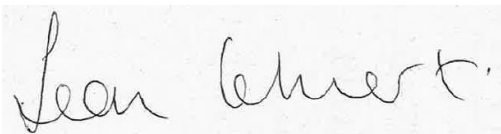
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

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 676474.

Yours,





**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**

