

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-126

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

Date: 31st July 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 17th July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding PPE

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

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.

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 I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act concerning Personal Protective Equipment for staff cleaning your hospital.

1. Is your cleaning managed in-house or outsourced to a private contractor?

(If in-house, please respond to questions 2-4, if outsourced; please respond to questions 5-7)

A1 At the County Hospital site cleaning services are all provided in house. At the Royal Stoke site cleaning is a hybrid model using a mix of in house services and outsourced via a PFI contract.

Q2 What PPE do you provide to cleaners?

A2 PPE worn by cleaners is the same as that worn by other staff and like them varies according to the area worked in, but is compliant with National, local infection prevention, and clinical directives. The PPE provided includes gloves, aprons, visors, FFP3 masks and full gowns.

Q3 What training do you provide to cleaners on doffing and donning PPE?

A3 All cleaning staff are provided with PPE instruction as part of their local induction, to carry out their normal duties.

This PPE training has been enhanced during Covid 19, to include the training on fitting and wearing of FFP3 masks, and the donning and doffing of PPE. This training is provided by qualified trainers, and information and further training is available locally and on the Trust intranet.

Q4 Do you collect data on PPE's failure to protect cleaners? Is this data broken down by sex and ethnicity of the cleaners? Can you provide this data?

A4 The Trust utilises an online reporting system (Datix), to date no failures have been notified.

Q5 To whom is your cleaning outsourced?

A5 Sodexo provide cleaning services to areas at Royal Stoke University Hospital via a PFI contract.

Q6 Can you provide a copy of the contract you have with them?

A6 The PFI contract is with Project Support North Staffs Limited. The Trust does not have a direct contract with Sodexo

Q7 Has this contract been amended in any way that affects the provision of PPE or training in the use of PPE for hospital cleaners since February 1, 2020? If so, how?

A7 The overarching PFI contract has not been amended as ProjectCo and their sub-contractors have an obligation to comply with Trust policies as required.

*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.

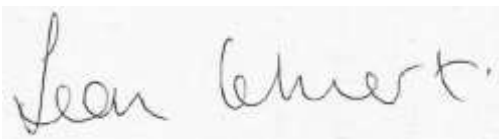
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager