

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-147

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

Date: 4th September 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 29th July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding fraud

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 All of the information that I have requested, I am aware is readily available and should already have been collated as part of your organisation's recent annual counter fraud SRT submission made to the NHS counter fraud authority.

1. Staff headcount at your organisation?

A1 UHNM headcount as at 31/03/2020 11035

Q2 Annual budget of your organisation for the financial year 2019-2020?

A2 £850m

Q3 What is your organisation provider type (as recorded on your SRT submission – i.e. Acute teaching, Ambulance)?

A3 Acute teaching

Q4 Who provides your organisations counter fraud provision? (In house – NHS consortium – Private provider)

A4 Private Provider

Q5 How many days were recorded for proactive counter fraud work (Strategic governance, Inform and Involve & Prevent & Deter) carried out at your organisation during the financial year 2019-20?

A5 50 days

Q6 How many days were recorded for carrying out reactive investigation work at your organisation during the financial year 2019-20 (hold to account)?

A6 5 days

Q7 How many counter fraud referrals did your organisation receive during the financial year 2019-2020?

A7 Five (5)

Q8 What was the recorded fraud loss identified by your organisation during the financial year 2019-2020?

A8 £0

Q9 What was the amount of fraud losses recovered by your organisation during the financial year 2019-2020?

A9 As answer 8

Q10 How many criminal sanctions relating to fraud, bribery and corruption did your organisation apply during the financial year 2019-2020?

A10 None

Q11 How many disciplinary sanctions relating to fraud, bribery and corruption did your organisation apply during the financial year 2019-2020?

A11 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 as being <5

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

Q12 What was the cost of counter fraud staffing or outsourced counter fraud provision to your organisation during 2019-2020 for - Strategic Governance, Inform and Involve and Prevent and Deter?

A12 Commercially sensitive information relating to the number of items purchased 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.

The requested information should be obtained directly from the NHS Counter Fraud Authority who collates this at the end of each financial year.

NHS Counter Fraud Authority: generalenquiries@nhscfa.gsi.gov.uk

Q13 What was the costs of counter fraud staffing or outsourced counter fraud provision to your organisation during 2019-20 for - Hold to Account?

A13 As answer 12

*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