

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-103

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

Date: 9th July 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 3rd July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding software development

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 Does your Trust have teams/departments that handle any of the following: Application/Software Development, Websites, Technical innovation? Yes/No, If Yes please name these teams/departments:

A1 Yes- please see below:

- Application Support and Development Team
- Integration Support and Development

Both are part of IM&T

Q2 How many members are in these teams/departments? And what roles are the teams/departments made up of?

A2 Please see below:

- Applications Development = six (6) team members
- Integration = three (3) members

- Q3 What technologies do the teams/departments use? For example: HTML5, C#, SQL, .NET Core 2.0**
- A3 Release of this information potentially puts the Trust at cyber risk and therefore is exempted under section 24(1) which states “Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if the exemption from section 1(1) (b) 2 is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.” Furthermore withholding this information is also supported by the Freedom of Information Amendment (Terrorism and Criminal Intelligence) Act 2004
- Q4 Are the developments of the teams/departments open source? Yes/No, if yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**
- A4 No
- Q5 What software methodology do the teams/departments use?**
- A5 Please see below:
- Agile / scrum
- Q6 Do the teams/departments develop front facing service user websites/apps? Yes/No, If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**
- A6 Yes
- Q7 Do the teams/departments work with clinical staff to formulate any innovative ideas they may have? Yes/No, If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**
- A7 Clinical staff are asked to input their requirements for each software release of the application
- Q8 Have the teams/departments ever gone for external tenders for healthcare system developments? Yes/No, if yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**
- A8 Numerous departments across the Trust have their systems provided by third party suppliers.
- Q9 Have the teams/departments ever done developments for other trusts/external entities? Yes/No, if yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**
- A9 No
- Q10 Have the teams/departments ever sold a development it has produced commercially? Yes/No, if yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**
- A10 No
- Q11 Have the teams/departments ever attempted to secure an innovation grant? Yes/No If yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**
- A11 No

Q12 Were the teams/departments used during the COVID-19 crisis? Yes/No If yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this. If No, why wasn't it used?

A12 Yes - two applications were developed to send patient and staff Covid results via email or text message.

Q13 Does your service provide mental health services? Yes/No If yes, have the teams/departments been involved in developing these digitally/online?

A13 No

Q14 Do the teams/departments feel they have good visibility within the Trust regarding the services they can offer? Yes/No, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.

A14 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

*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.

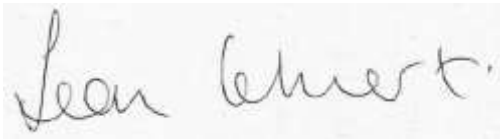
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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