

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-051

Date: 19th May 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 24th April 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding virtual wards

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 Do you have a Virtual Ward?

If yes,

- For what specialities and care pathway have you implemented Virtual Wards?

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this request, 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.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/> FOI ref 386-2223 October 2022

Q2 How many Virtual Ward beds do you have?

A2 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this request, 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.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/> FOI ref 386-2223 October 2022

Q3 Do you know how many Virtual Ward beds you need? If so, how many?

A3 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.

Q4 Who is your Virtual ward provider(s)?

A4 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this request, 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.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/> FOI ref 386-2223 October 2022

**Q5 If no,
- Do you intend to implement a Virtual Ward?**

A5 Not applicable

Q6 If yes, have you identified and engaged a Virtual Ward provider?

A6 Not applicable

Q7 Do you know how many Virtual Ward beds you need? If so, how many?

A7 Not applicable

Q8 Do you have an internal Virtual Ward lead?

A8 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this request, 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.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/> FOI ref 386-2223 October 2022

*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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records