

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-321

Date: 16th November 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 30th October 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding MESH

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 We have been informed by NHS Improvement that this Trust currently uses the Message Exchange for Social Care & Health (MESH) tool to identify overseas visitors who may be eligible for NHS charging.

I would like to FOI request answers to the following six questions relating to the use of this tool:

1. When did the Trust adopt this tool?

A1 UHNM adopted this tool from February 2020.

Q2 Please provide copies of any meeting minutes or email correspondence with the Department of Health and Social Care or NHS England pertaining to the adoption or on-going use of the MESH tool. Please also provide any documents/guidance sent to your Trust regarding this.

A2 See below:

MESH User Guidance:

https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/5923/OVM_MESH_user_guide.pdf

General Publications regarding MESH within NHS Digitals website:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/message-exchange-for-social-care-and-health-mesh/mesh-guidance-hub/client-user-guide>

Mesh Webpage within NHS Digital

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/message-exchange-for-social-care-and-health-mesh>

Q3 Please provide copies of any documents outlining the rationale for the adoption and use of the MESH tool by the Trust. If available please include equality impact assessments, data protection assessments, and any local policies about the use of the MESH

A3 The Trust uses the MESH tool as it allows an OVM team working within the Trust to submit Trust activity data as a list of NHS Numbers and dates of birth to NHS Spine via a MESH mailbox and receive chargeability status, the data returned provides us with a quick way to bulk check patient status and identify those most likely to be non-chargeable and chargeable based on their current flags within SCR.

Q4 How frequently are patient records submitted to MESH? I.e. on a daily/weekly basis.

A4- Daily (Mon-Fri), Weekend Data is submitted on a Monday.

**Q5 What patient information is submitted to the MESH tool?
Please supply screenshots of an empty submission template if available**

A5 See below:

	A	B	C	D
	Mandatory NHS Number (999999999)	Mandatory Date of Birth (DD/MM/CCYY)	Optional Family Name (max. 40 chars, min. 3)	Optional Given Name/Initial (max. 40 chars, min. 1)
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Q6 6a. Does the Trust upload the electronic records of all patients accessing Trust services to the MESH system? Yes/No

- If no, what criteria/algorithm does the Trust use to determine which patient records are uploaded? Please provide a copy of any policies or documents specifying the criteria determining which patient records are submitted to the MESH tool.

A6 All Patient Records who have an NHS Number.

*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.

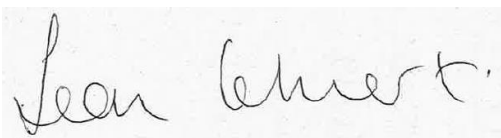
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager