University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust

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

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-072

Date: 16th June 2020

Dear Madam(s)

I am writing in response to your emails dated 2nd June 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding cannula removal and sharp containers

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.

On the same we contacted you both to inform you that under section 12 of the FOI Act we would be aggregating your two requests;

The section 12 exemption states:

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from:
- The same person or
- People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.

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.

Request #1- On 2nd June 2020 we contacted you as we required the following clarification:

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Q2 Please clarify if you are wanting information for number of patients who have been admitted to hospital who have had been diagnosed during their stay as having a catheter related bloodstream infection?

Q3 Are you wanting the number of patients who have been admitted to hospital who have had been diagnosed during their stay as having phlebitis?

As of 16th June 2020 our request for clarification for request number 1 has not been responded to , therefore in order to not delay request number 2 we are unable to proceed with request number 1.

Request #1

Q1 What were the recorded reasons for the removal of IV peripheral cannulas within your hospital Trust within the last 10 years? Please provide annual numbers for each reason for removal.

A1 UHNM is unable to answer the above as our request for clarification (02/06/2020) has been unanswered, therefore this request is closed. We will re-open if the applicant contacts us again with the clarification requested above.

Q2 What is the annual number of catheter related bloodstream infections within your hospital Trust within the last 10 years?

A2 As answer 1

Q3 What are the annual recorded incidents of phlebitis within your hospital Trust in the last 10

A3 As answer 1

Request #2

Q1 I have been doing some research and require more information and I was wondering if you could provide further information under the Freedom of Information Act:

Please could you provide all recorded figures for the following questions:

How many sharps containers were disposed of annually for your NHS Hospital Trust within the last 10 years?

A1 Prior to 2019/20 financial year, no data can be drawn upon due to the changing contractors however the total number of sharps containers used on site in 2019/20 financial year is 53,260

Q2 What is the annual recorded cost for sharps container disposal for your NHS Hospital Trust within the last 10 years?

A2 Data cannot be split into individual spend on sharps as the Trust tracks the volume of waste categories opposed to the containers it has been disposed in.

*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,

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

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