



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-652

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 2nd March 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 5th February 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding overnight medical staffing.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in question 5 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual rotas/ departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual rotas/ departmental records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual rotas/ departmental records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 I would like a list of all sites owned by the Trust where patients may stay overnight.

A1 Please refer to the paragraph above

Q2 How many beds are there on each site?

A2 This information is not held as the number of beds available will differ each night depending on whether there is any escalation beds open, wards closed due to infections e.g. Norovirus, Flu or beds closed due to staffing issues.

However we can supply a “snap shot” from our daily sitrep:

- Stoke = 1155
- County = 192

- Total = 1347

Q3 What is the training level of the most senior doctor who should be on site each night (e.g. FY1, FY2, ST1 etc.)? If this varies between wards/departments, please provide details.

A3 There are resident on call trainees onsite with the most senior being ST3 and above

Q4 In the past year, how many times has the most senior doctor on site/ward overnight been at a lower training level than this, and what was their training level on each occasion?

A4 There has been no "reported acting down" reported. We manage to arrange cross speciality cover in unplanned situations.

Q5 In the past year, how many times has the most senior doctor on each site overnight been a locum?

On how many occasions was that locum at a lower training level than specified as ideal by Trust policy?

A5 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above

*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

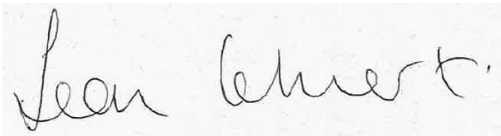
still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

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 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager