

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-137

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

Date: 25th August 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 22nd July 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding thefts

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 day we contacted you via email as UHNM had received several requests that are asking for similar information that we believed were from the same person/company, therefore we contacted you to inform you that under section 12 of the FOI Act we were aggregating these requests on Disciplinary action required Against Staff and Reports of Theft of Drugs`, **your third request had no details of what is being asked.**

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

Q1 How many staff both clinical and non-clinical has faced disciplinary action for theft of property belonging to the trust between Jan 1st and the date of this email

Please provide details of what was stolen and the number of items for the first 5 cases in each month

To avoid falling into exemptions I am happy to have names ages and other identifying personal information to be redacted

A1 No staff have faced disciplinary action for theft of property belonging to the Trust between January 1st and the date of the FOI request

REQUEST #2

Q2 In the calendar year, 2019 and Jan 1st 2020 and July 21st 2020

How many reports of drug thefts has there been at any hospital managed by the Trust

Please provide the name of the drug that was stolen

A2 None

REQUEST #3

Q3 No questions submitted

A3 UHNM is unable to answer request #3 as you have not responded to our email (22.07.2020) informing you of the lack of questions and of the aggregating of these requests.

*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.

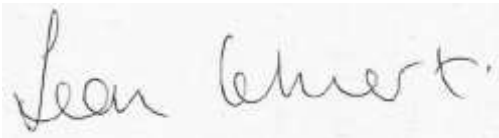
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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