



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-593

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

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 25th March 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding latex

***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 under section 8(1) of the FOI Act, requestors are required to provide a full name in order to make a request valid. The Information Commissioner states that a "title and/or first name with surname satisfies the requirement for provision of a real name, as does the use by a female applicant of her maiden name". Therefore, in order to proceed with your request can you please supply us with a valid name?

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 you replied via email with:

'I hope my email reaches you well and apologies for the delayed response. In relation to following FOI request 593-2021. The name of the requester is [REDACTED]

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 The number of latex allergy incidents recorded in the Trust for Patients and Healthcare Workers within the last 5 years.**

**A1** A search of Datix using the key word "Latex" revealed:

- Over the period 25/03/2016 – 24/03/2021.
- x2 skin reactions suggested to have been caused by Latex affecting staff
- X3 reactions believed to have been caused by latex affecting patients

- X46 near misses where patients deemed to be sensitive to latex were either exposed to latex or could have been exposed to latex but the exposure was averted, and no harm was recorded.

**Q2 Were these incidents all recorded on Datix?**

A2 As per answer 1, all of the above were recorded on Datix

**Q3 Type of medical device that caused a latex reaction.**

A3 See below:

- Surgical gloves
- Urinary catheters

**Q4 Most recent Latex Allergy Policy**

A4 Policy No. HS08 Policy to Minimise and Manage the Health Risk of Using Products = Attached

\*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.

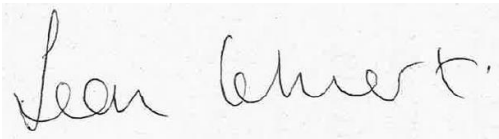
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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