



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-560

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

Date: 6th January 2020

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 2nd January 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding surgical tools.

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 Please can you tell me the number of instances in which a surgical instrument has been left inside a patient's body following a surgical procedure between 2015 and 2019 (up to present day and itemised by year)?

For each instance, please list:

- a) The type of instruments found during this time and where in the body they were discovered.**
- b) The surgical procedure that was taking place when instrument was left inside body.**
- c) The patient's outcome, i.e. if anyone has become seriously ill as a result of leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient or if anyone has died as a result of leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient. (If this exceeds the scope of the request please inform me before omitting it).**
- d) How many people have taken legal action against the Trust as a result of a surgeon leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient? (If this exceeds the scope of the request please inform me before omitting it).**

A1 The Trust uses an incident management system called "Datix" and using the search criteria "*Never Event (Retained instrument post operation)*" for the date range from 01/01/2015 to 03/01/2020 we can report that we had no incidents of instruments found inside a patient. Therefore your request is not applicable.

*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.

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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.

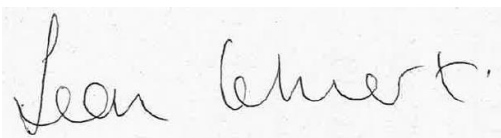
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager