



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-074

Date: 24th May 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 12th May 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding helium

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.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 to find out the following information if you could please help me with information about the NHS Trusts' helium consumption:

- 1. Could you detail the quantity of helium that has been purchased each year for the last 5 years?**

A1 See below: BOC cylinder gases report for 2021/22 indicates zero usage:

Material number	Material Description	Delivery Quantity	Returned Quantity	Holdings 07.04.2022
163-F	Medical Helium Size F	0	0	1

173-F	HELIUM/OXYGEN SIZE F	0	0	2
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Q2 What are the main uses for helium within the Trust?

A2 Heliox was used for airway obstruction but we haven't purchased or used it for years.

Q3 Could you outline the various grades/types of helium purchased?

A3 Information not held

Q4 What has the cost of helium been for each of those 5 years?

A4 No usage

Q5 Who are your suppliers of helium and can you provide a copy of the supply contracts?

A5 N/A for BOC contract

Q6 Can you detail your procurement process for obtaining helium and send any tender documents relating to helium?

A6 Not applicable- We don't use any helium per se. Siemens occasionally need to "top up" the Helium in the scanners internal cooling system but they contractually deal with this and UHNM don't get involved.

*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.

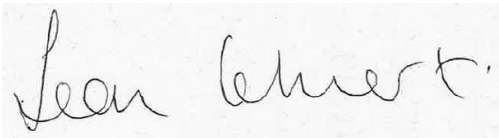
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager