



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-581

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

Date: 29th March 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 18th March 2021 (received into our office 19th March) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding temporary workers

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 (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 In relation to your supply of medical (doctor) temporary workers, please could you provide the answers to the following questions?

1) Which locum/staffing agencies have you engaged to be part of your medical (doctors) agency cascade? Please provide the names of the agencies split into the relevant tiers. If you do not use a tier system, please explain how vacancies are cascaded with agencies.

A1 The Trust uses a Direct Engagement Model. Through this Direct Engagement Model locums were booked from 41 agencies during the last 3 years

Q2 Please provide a breakdown of the proportion of medical (doctor) locum hours booked through each of these tiers for the last three years. If this is not available, please provide a breakdown of the proportion of medical (doctor) locum spend incurred through each of these tiers for the last three years. If only recent years are available, please provide what you have.

A2 See below:

Tier	Hours
1	276777.93
2	200401.57
Other	5858.57
Grand Total	483038.07

Q3 What is the protocol for releasing medical (doctor) vacancies to each of your tiers?

A3 The Trust uses a Direct Engagement Model:

Ordering Notice Period Given	Supplier's Protected Response Time (T1)	Secondary Response Time (T2)
Less than 4 Hours	Emergency – Cascade to All – Respond ASAP (30 minutes for guidance)	
Less than 1 calendar day	1 hour	1 hour
1 working day	2 hours	2 hours
2 to 3 working days	4 hours	4 hours
4 working days	1 working day	1 working day
5 to 10 working days	2 working days	2 working days
Greater than 10 working days	4 working days	4 working days

Q4 When are the current arrangements relating to your agency cascade in place until?

A4 30/09/2021

*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.

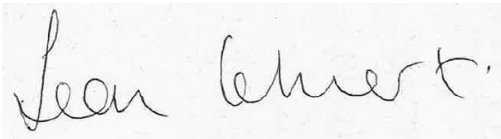
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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