



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-337

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

Date: 9th October 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 11th September 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding laboratories.

On 12th September we contacted you via email as we required a time frame for questions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

You replied via email the following clarification:

"Please include annual figures – for the prior three full years if possible"

On 20th September 2019 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on what you meant by "treatment", a patients treatment could involve for example and ED attendance followed by an Inpatient admission whereby they could have multiple lab activities. Is this classed as one treatment or two?

You replied via email the following:

"Apologies, for the lack of clarity. By "treatment" we meant a patient's healthcare experience on a particular day – IE: from walking through the door to leaving. A "laboratory investigation" would form part of the day's "treatment" in this sense."

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 How many laboratories (please include breakdown of sites/disciplines if possible) are there in your Trust?

A1 There are two laboratory sites; Royal Stoke University Hospital (RSUH) and County Hospital (CH). Please see below:

RSUH is the hub laboratory with the following disciplines:

- Biochemistry
- Haematology
- Blood Bank
- Immunology
- Microbiology
- Virology

- Histopathology
- Non-Gynae Cytology (part of histopathology)
- Gynae Cytology

County Hospital is the spoke, essential services laboratory:

- Biochemistry
- Haematology
- Blood Bank

Q2 What is the headcount of laboratory staff (please include breakdown of sites/departments/roles if possible) in your Trust?

A2 Please see the 19/20 budgeted establishment below:

Department	Staff Grade (WTE)						
	8a	7	6	5	4	3	2
Biochemistry	2.0	10.6	15.2	10.4	6.8	10.9	4.0
Haematology	2.1	11.2	16.4	12.5	10.3	16.6	0.0
Blood Bank	Included in haematology figures						
Immunology	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.6	0.0	2.0	0.0
Microbiology	1.0	4.0	16.0	5.8	6.8	17.3	3.8
Virology	1.0	1.3	3.4	1.0	4.4	5.0	2.0
Histopathology	3.7	6.4	4.1	5.5	10.4	12.5	6.0
Non-Gynae Cytology	Included in histopathology figures						
Gynae Cytology	2.9	3.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	3.3	6.3

Q3 How many patient samples or 'reportable laboratory activities' are processed (please include breakdown of sites/departments if possible) by your Trust's laboratories each year (please include the three most recent available years' numbers)?

A3 Please see below:

Year	Department	Number of reportable laboratory activities (requests)
2016/17	Blood Transfusion	75,760
2016/17	Cervical Cytology	98,308
2016/17	Clinical Biochemistry	1,325,576
2016/17	Haematology	1,041,534
2016/17	Histopathology	42,693
2016/17	Immunology	43,057
2016/17	Microbiology	265,427
2016/17	Non-Gynae Cytology	5,853
2016/17	Serology/Virology	107,906
2017/18	Blood Transfusion	78,305
2017/18	Cervical Cytology	94,688
2017/18	Clinical Biochemistry	1,373,966
2017/18	Haematology	1,037,220

2017/18	Histopathology	42,386
2017/18	Immunology	43,565
2017/18	Microbiology	257,020
2017/18	Non-Gynae Cytology	5,536
2017/18	Serology/Virology	98,200
2018/19	Blood Transfusion	81,615
2018/19	Cervical Cytology	102,709
2018/19	Clinical Biochemistry	1,404,761
2018/19	Haematology	1,109,193
2018/19	Histopathology	44,690
2018/19	Immunology	44,643
2018/19	Microbiology	265,739
2018/19	Non-Gynae Cytology	5,360
2018/19	Serology/Virology	123,329

Q4 What number (and percentage) of your Trust's patients have a sample processed in a laboratory as part of their treatment?

A4 Please see below: note that we do not record the percentage.

	Number of Patient Visits	Number of Patient Pathology Requests
2016/17	1,115,989	1,916,516
2017/18	1,074,241	1,967,357
2018/19	1,133,048	2,019,048

Q5 How many patient samples are taken by your Trust but not processed/analysed by your Trust's laboratory staff? (IE: outsourced)

A5 Please see below:

- 2016/17 = 15568 requests
- 2017/18 = 20840 requests
- 2018/19 = 19860 requests

Q6 If any, where are outsourced patient samples sent? (Please include company names/addresses and number of samples sent each year)

A6 Please refer to the attached spread sheet.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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.

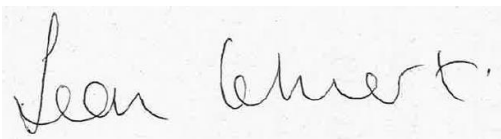
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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