

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-112

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

Date: 22nd July 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 12th July 2020 (received into our office 13th July 2020) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding sustainability

On our acknowledgment we added the following statement:

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 I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, related to your organisation's current approach to sustainability and sustainable development.

The information that I am seeking to collect is as follows:

1. Could you please confirm whether your organisation has a sustainability or sustainable development strategy?

a. If possible, please provide a copy.

A1 Please see attached document

Q2 If you answered yes to the first question can you confirm?

- a. **Whether there is a strategy group or work/action plan in place to support this strategy?**
- b. **When the strategy was first developed within the organisation (year).**

A2 Please see below:

- a. Sustainability Working Groups are established to support the delivery of our key objectives in our Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP) and Travel Plans. The Working Groups will include:
 1. Energy and Water (Joint Trust and Sodexo),
 2. Waste,
 3. Sustainable Travel and Transport,
 4. Procurement / use of resources.
- b. The current Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP) and Travel Plans are 5 year strategies to cover 2020-2025, written and approved by the Trust Board during the current calendar year (2020). These documents supersede the 2015-2020 strategy documents.

Q3 Is there an identified Executive Sponsor for sustainability within the organisation?

A3 Director of Estates, Facilities and PFI

Q4 Are any members of staff dedicated to sustainability or sustainable development within the organisation? If so, how many hours per week are dedicated to this area of work, what is their job title and what Agenda for Change pay band are they?

A4 Sustainability Manager = 37.5 hours (Pay Band 6)

Q5 Does your organisation have any environmental champions? If so, how many?

A5 Switch to a Sustainable UHNM (SWITCH) Champions Network 276 members of staff. Within the SWITCH Champion Network there are 112 members of our UHNM Sports & Social Group (Running and Cycling Club via Strava app)

Q6 Do you offer any sustainability training for your staff? If so, what format is this delivered in (e.g. face to face, e-learning, etc.)?

A6 E-learning package available to staff, this is non-statutory training.

Q7 Is your organisation 'paperless'?

a. **For NHS Trusts and CCGs providing clinical services (such as Continuing Health Care), if not, what year do you anticipate fulfilling the NHS target to fully digitise clinical records?**

A7 UHNM is not paperless, however:

- a. There is a scheme underway, led by Information Management & Technology Team, to digitalise towards 'paper light' and recording consultations electronically in Outpatients and work is beginning in the Inpatient setting.
- b. This scheme is part of the Trust's 2025 Vision and strategy.

Q8 Have you engaged with the NHS Sustainable Development Unit over the past five years? If so, could you provide the names of the project titles that you worked with them on?

- A8 Yes, for the Saving Lives with Solar project. NHS Sustainable Development Unit used this project as a case study and reported within their best practice document and annual report.
- Q9 Does your organisation assess its impact on the environment when making decisions through use of a sustainability framework or another similar tool?**
- A9 We use the NHS Sustainable Development Unit, Sustainable Development Assessment Tool each year to benchmark our sustainability performance and to set goals for the year ahead.

*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,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager