



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-193

Date: 22nd July 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 8th July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Staff networks

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 This is an information request relating to staff networks at the Trust. As an example of a staff network, see here: <https://www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/about-us/equality-and-diversity/lgbt-staff-network/>

**Please provide me with the following information:
A list of all the staff networks at the Trust**

A1 See below:

- LGBT+ Staff Network Group
- Disability and Long Term Conditions Staff Network Group
- Ethnic Diversity Staff Network Group

- Q2 Whether each network receives funding from the Trust and, if so, how much (please express annually for the last three financial years)**
- A2 The networks do not have a dedicated budget, but there is a flexible amount available to the networks from the People & Organisational Development Department budget for branding, merchandise or events
- Q3 How much FTE equivalent staff time each network is entitled to. For example, a staff network may have a chair who's entitled to spend 10% of their working hours devoted to the network (please express annually for the last three financial years)**
- A3 The Trust allocated 2 days per month to Chairs of our Staff Networks, to be utilised on a flexible basis
- Q4 A list of events that each network has held in this financial year so far (April to the present day), including the title of the event, information on any guest speakers and the time of the event**
- A4 See below:
- Rainbow Badge Awareness Events throughout June 2022
 - UHNM Stand at Stoke Pride 2022
 - Disability Champions specialist training from Disability Rights UK April 2022
 - Trans Awareness Training – various dates delivered by LGBT+ Staff Network Chair

*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