



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-097

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

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in response to your email dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Virtual Wards.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Please note that UHNM has answered this request on behalf of MPFT and any future requests on this subject should be sent to [Health.records@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:Health.records@mpft.nhs.uk)**

**Q1 I am emailing under the Freedom of Information Act to request information regarding virtual wards:**

**Question 1:**

**a) Do you currently use virtual wards? (Y/N)**

A1 The Acute Care at Home service delivers Virtual Ward care for patients deemed appropriate for early supported discharge from Acute Hospitals and supports admission avoidance via our urgent care provision Community Rapid Intervention Service. Information is held within Acute Care at home database and Midlands Partnership Foundation trust data warehouse

**Q2 If yes, Can you please specify how many virtual wards beds you have and the provider by specialty (Cancer care, respiratory care, cardiology care, diabetes care, stroke care, renal care, pre/post-operative care services, other)?**

A2 Information is held within Acute Care at home database and Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust data warehouse.

**155** Acute Care at Home(provider) virtual ward beds are open for the UHNM footprint (Royal Stoke and County Hospital)

Breakdown per Virtual Ward

General Acute & Frailty – 35 Beds open

COPD Virtual Ward – 30 Beds open

MySense – 90 Beds open

**Q3 How many patients have been admitted in virtual wards, per specialty, for the Financial Years (FY) 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024YTD (Year to Date)?**

A3 See below:

Year	Total No. Patients (Acute)	COPD* <sup>1</sup>	My Sense* <sup>2</sup>
2022-23	864		
2023-24	1259	42	35
2024 YTD (15/5/23)	157	2	6

\*<sup>1</sup>Data only available from 16/3/23. Opened with 12 Patients

\*<sup>2</sup>Data only available from 1/8/23. Opened with 55 Patients

**Q4 What are the values of the contracts you have in place split by specialty and provider?**

A4 See below:

Mysense License - Staffordshire and Stoke On Trent (SSoT) Integrated Care System (ICS) have allocated < £60,000 for FY 2024/25, the exact amount would divulge supplier commercial rates and therefore a section 41 exemption applies.

Docobo License - We form part of a West Midlands Collaborative contract incorporating several Integrated Care Boards (ICB). Staffordshire and Stoke On Trent (SSoT) Integrated Care System (ICS) have allocated < £130,000 to be part of the contract, the exact amount would divulge supplier commercial rates and therefore a section 41 exemption applies.

Section 41(a)(b) exemption applies: provided in confidence.

(a)it was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and,

(b) the disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person. Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent (SSOT) ICB may hold further information

**Q5 What are the durations of the contracts you have in place split by specialty and provider?**

A5 See below:

Mysense Licenses - A business charge mechanism change has been applied and subscriptions are now consumption based and are no longer timebound therefore the contract remains open.

Docobo Licenses to February 2025 (via NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB)

**Q6 If no, If you are not currently using virtual wards, are you planning on using them in the future?**

A6 No applicable

**Q7 For which specialties are you planning on using them?**

A7 No applicable

**Q8 When would you start?**

A8 No applicable

\*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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

