

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-493

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 26th October 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding agency.

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 we contacted you via email as the FOI Act clearly states that If we suspect that the request has come from a Pseudonym we are entitled to request proof of the person's identity, as provision of a Pseudonym invalidates a request, therefore please can you provide a photo copy of your driver's licence or other official document that validates your identity.

Please note:

UHNM's request for identification is in compliance with the Information Commissioner guidance "Recognising a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (section 8) Version 1.2". We would like to draw your attention to paragraphs 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 22 and 35 of this guidance. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/receiving-a-request/> and "What makes a valid request?"

Therefore we are requesting this from you as the request has other characteristics that might suggest you are working on behalf of a company/ corporate body.

UHNM needs to be assured that time spent on requests within a 60 working day period does not exceed the appropriate limit for each applicant, be that a person, group or company. In this way we promote fair use of the Act and best use of our resources.

The ICO states:

The Act recognises that freedom of information requests are not the only demand on the resources of a public authority. They should not be allowed to cause a drain on your time, energy and finances to the extent that they negatively affect your normal public functions.

On the same day you replied via email with:

*'I am not comfortable providing you with my identity.'*

*The Information Commissioners Office states; "However, there may be situations where the name provided is not an obvious pseudonym and you have no reason to believe that a pseudonym is being used. It is the Commissioner's view that in such situations you should accept the name provided at face value."*

*Whilst this may mean that some pseudonymous requests will slip through the net, we do not envisage situations where you routinely carry out checks on requesters' identities"*

*It's insulting that you consider my name to be a pseudonym along the lines of "Mickey Mouse"*

*Please respond to my FOI request as I don't believe there is a valid argument that my name is a pseudonym and I find it offensive. I will escalate this as a complaint if I have to.'*

We responded via email with:

we will continue with this request at this time to avoid any additional capacity pressures but under the FOI legislation we had a right to ask for ID and how the request is worded gave the impression this is a company. This is something we do regularly to avoid unnecessary burdens upon our teams during the current pressures.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 we contacted you via email as in order to continue with your request to we require clarification what professions are you referring to for Health Science Services (HSS)?

On the same day you replied via email with:

*'Could you please include the below under HSS?*

*Pharmacy*

*Biomedical Science*

*Anatomical pathology (Mortuary)*

*Orthoptists and Optometrists*

*Clinical Sciences (Medical Physics)'*

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 we contacted you via email as we required further information:

To continue with your request we require clarification what you mean by temp staff is it locum or staff on zero hours contracts?

On the same day you replied via email with:

*'locums'*

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.

**Q1 I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the information below.**

**How many hours were worked by temporary staff within Allied Health Professionals (AHP) and Health Science Services (HSS) over the past year?**

A1 71,481 hours via agency

**Q2 Can you provide a breakdown of the hours worked by temporary staff within each of the divisions/departments under AHP/HSS?**

A2 See below:

Division (Department)	Total hours
<b>Central Functions</b>	<b>3068.07</b>
Dieticians	2925.57
Therapy - County	142.5
<b>CWD</b>	<b>59966.46</b>
CDC MRI Department - 10317	146.92
Plain Film County	1730.79
CT Department	2337.5
Mammography	669.67
MRI Department	2534.28
Nuclear Medicine	1199.75
RSUH Plain Film	4469.58
Ultrasound	331.34
Bacteriology department	11439.84
Clinical Biochemistry	3262.5
Haematology	1035.5
<b>Histology</b>	<b>10212.51</b>
LIMS Haematology	2570.26
Virology	3216.92
Haematology Department	2650.69
Mortuary	1833
Pharmacy Patient Services	11944.08
Pharmacy Tech Services	334.83
<b>Medical</b>	<b>4120.59</b>
Radiotherapy	4103.59
Respiratory medical team	17
<b>Specialised</b>	<b>4326.54</b>
Therapies - 30202	733.16
Cath Radiographers	892.08
ECG	2640.22
Cardiac - Cardiology	46.5
Speech and Language	14.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>71481.66</b>

**Q3 Do you have a Master Vendor or Neutral Vendor to source AHP/HSS agency staff? If so, who is that contract with and when does it end?**

A3 Maxxima - 08/08/204 with an option to extend for 12 months

**Q4 Who, within the Trust, is responsible for managing that contract and what is their job title?**

A4 Joanne Roberts – Group Deputy Director of Procurement

**Q5 Which agency is the largest supplier of AHP/HSS agency staff to the Trust?**

A5 Maxxima is the Trust Master Vendor

\*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

