



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-122

Date: 2nd July 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 26th May 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Needle spend

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

On the same day we contacted you via email as we required a time frame in order to collate the information.

On the same day you replied via email with:
'Please would you provide information for:- 2018 & 2019'.

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 you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your purchasing department. Please may you provide me with?**
- 1. Annual spend on needles and syringes as follows:**
 - a. Needles and syringes in total**
 - b. Specifically**
 - i. Hypodermic needles (non-safety)**
 - ii. Safety hypodermic needles**
 - iii. Syringes**
 - iv. Combined Insulin needles and syringes**
 - v. Insulin pen needles**

- vi. NR Fit needles and syringes
- vii. Anaesthesia needles and syringes
- viii. Soft tissue biopsy needles
- ix. Bone marrow biopsy needles

A1 1. Annual spend on needles and syringes as follows:

2018

- a. Needles and syringes in total (see breakdown immediately below)
- b. Specifically
 - i. Hypodermic needles (non-safety) - £11,863.51
 - ii. Safety hypodermic needles - £83,844.36
 - iii. Syringes - £227,183.76
 - iv. Combined Insulin needles and syringes - £4,494.47
 - v. Insulin pen needles - £169.58
 - vi. NR Fit needles and syringes - £46,526.48
 - vii. Anaesthesia needles and syringes – included in the needle and syringe spend
 - viii. Soft tissue biopsy needles - £3,399
 - ix. Bone marrow biopsy needles – £12,588

2019

- a. Needles and syringes in total (see breakdown immediately below)
 - b. Specifically
 - i. Hypodermic needles (non-safety) - £11,305.51
 - ii. Safety hypodermic needles - £79,735.98
 - iii. Syringes - £223,548.82
 - iv. Combined Insulin needles and syringes - £4,435.58
 - v. Insulin pen needles - £237.17
 - vi. NR Fit needles and syringes - £45,409.38
 - vii. Anaesthesia needles and syringes – included in the needle and syringe spend
 - viii. Soft tissue biopsy needles - £3,198.56
 - ix. Bone marrow biopsy needles – £7,032
- Chibba Biopsy needles - £4668 (no figure available for 2018)

Q2 Biopsy needles;

a. Do you consider that you mainly use manual, semi-automatic or fully automatic needles?

A2 We do not use Biopsy needles at County Endoscopy. At RSUH = Chibba Biopsy Needles these are semi-automatic

Q3 List of your current purchase price for needles and syringe products

A3 Commercially sensitive information relating to the price paid per item has not been disclosed here as we consider that under section 43(2) of the FOI Act: prejudice to the commercial interests of any party, is engaged. Disclosure of this information could be commercially detrimental to the Trust and companies acting on our behalf and result in less competitive prices for services. The likely consequence of this would be increased cost for service provision to the Trust. We have considered how the public interest might apply, and although recognising that there is a strong public interest in openness there is a greater public interest ensuring an ability to obtain best value for money.

Q4 Contact (Name, email, phone number) details for the ward consumables purchaser(s) responsible for placing orders for needles and syringes.

The information may be provided as lists.

A4 There are countless wards and departments which will use needles and syringes and as such there are a huge number of staff who will requisition such products; there is no central list held specifically to show who orders needles and syringes since such staff will may order other products as well. Equally some staff who order other medical consumables may not order needles and syringes.

Useful points of contact would be

Laura Singleton* – laura.singleton@uhnm.nhs.uk

Gareth Nixon* – Gareth.Nixon@uhnm.nhs.uk

Both of the above staff are part of the Trusts Integrated Supplies and Procurement Department.

*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.

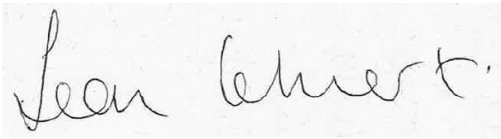
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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