



Ref: FOIA/EIR Reference 2020/21-546

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

Date: 12th March 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 24th February 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations Act (2004) regarding face masks and emissions

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 Please could you tell me?

How many face masks the Trust uses per day (if you don't have data broken down by day, a total number of masks used since the start of the pandemic, accompanied by the specific time period, will serve the same purpose)

A1 Surgical Type IIR Masks average daily usage of 16,000 per day, and FFP3 Respirator Masks average daily usage of 2,700 per day

Q2 How these masks are disposed of?

A2 At the Trust both the County and Royal site dispose of face masks in line with NHS England's latest waste SOP, the majority of which are disposed of through offensive waste. However, if

within a side room of a COVID patient/ or having completed certain air procedures, the face mask will be disposed of within an Infectious waste stream.

The following question will be answered under the Environmental Information Regulations Act (2004)

Q3 If these masks are incinerated, please provide me with any information the Trust has on the emissions produced by doing so. This could include estimates/data/reports/memos - and if you only have information for PPE generally during the pandemic, I'm happy to receive that.

A3 Information not held

*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.

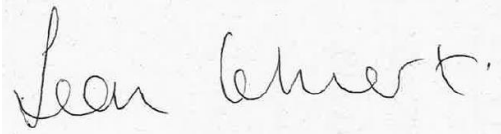
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager