



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-092

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 25th May 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding hospital social workers.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 Number of hospital social workers currently employed by your Trust (expressed as number of staff and as Full Time Equivalent, excluding vacancies)**

A1 None

**Q2 Number of non-social work registered staff currently employed in hospital social work teams (care managers, assessment officers, assistant social workers etc) (expressed as number of staff and as Full Time Equivalent, excluding vacancies)**

A2 None

**Q3 Number of vacancies for social workers and non-social work registered staff currently employed in hospital social work teams (expressed as number of posts and Full Time Equivalent)**

A3 Not applicable

**Q4 Are these hospital social workers managed by a registered social worker?**

A4 Not applicable

**Q5 Do these hospital social workers have an office base within an NHS hospital / other NHS premises?**

A5 Not applicable

**Q6 If your Trust does not employ hospital social workers, please give the name of the body that does employ hospital social workers in your area.**

**'Hospital social workers' include employees registered with a social work regulator, who spend more than 50% of their working time facilitating hospital discharge or providing other social work services to inpatients of acute NHS services, excluding mental health. 'Non-social work registered staff' includes staff who provide a similar service to social workers, but who are not registered with a social work regulator. Please do not include any staff whose posts are funded by the NHS or other bodies, but whose contract of employment is with the local authority.**

A6 Information not held by UHNM

\*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.

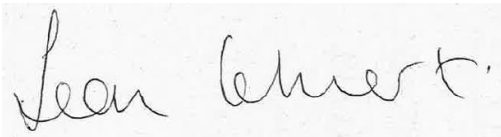
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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**