



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-774

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 23rd April 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 25th March 2019 (received into our office 26th March) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding controlled drugs that have been reported lost/stolen.

I can confirm the Trust holds information regarding all adverse incidents involving controlled drugs including unaccountable discrepancies such as missing controlled drugs. However we may not hold the detail you have requested regarding a breakdown of types of drugs and locations in its entirety. The Trust uses an incident management system called Datix. Incidents involving controlled drugs considered as an "unaccounted loss" will be recorded in Datix. All incidents are investigated and the vast majority of cases the drugs are subsequently accounted for e.g. due to a miscalculation in the register. Any incidents where the CDs are not subsequently accounted for have Root Cause Analysis (RCA) type investigation that is subsequently reviewed by the Trust Safe Medication group. All of these incidents are recorded on the Trust report to the Controlled Drugs Local Intelligence Network. Currently there is no separate Trust database of the CD incidents for "missing / unaccounted". In order to ascertain whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust we would have to access each individual report for each quarter of the years requested to see if the information you have requested is held there. We therefore feel your request in its entirety is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all individual report records and then extracting relevant information (where held) would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

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 wanted to get a list of controlled drugs that have been reported lost/stolen from your NHS Trust in the last five years (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018)?

Please provide the answers in an excel spreadsheet or google spreadsheet with the following headings: date, whether drug was stolen/lost, whether the drug was recovered/found, the name of the controlled drug, the approximate value.

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above.

*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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance