

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-010

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

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding da Vinci surgical robots.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in questions 2, 3 and 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health/departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health/departmental records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt 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 health/departmental records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

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 Could you please provide me with the following information?**

**1. The number of da Vinci surgical robots in use throughout your Trust and the number of each model (e.g. Si, X, Xi, SP)**

A1 Please see below:

- 1 x Da Vinci Si
- 1 x Da Vinci Diathermy Machine
- 1 x Da Vinci PS3000 (Patient Side Cart)

**Q2 The number of yearly procedures carried out using da Vinci systems with a breakdown by procedure type for the last 5 years**

A2 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

- Q3 A breakdown of the cost per procedure using da Vinci systems including instrumentation, servicing, disposable accessories, sterilisation costs, depreciation and other costs incurred**
- A3 As answer 2
- Q4 The upfront cost of da Vinci system instruments per surgery or on a per instrument basis**
- A4 As answer 2
- Q5 Historical number/rate of occurrence of incidences where cross infection has resulted from improper sterilisation and the number of associated adverse events**
- A5 None
- Q6 The rate of surgical site infections associated with procedures where a da Vinci system has been used.**
- A6 Not applicable

\*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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle  
**Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance**