

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-160

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

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (received into our office 119<sup>th</sup> June) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Pathology IT systems.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Does your Trust have a single EPR system currently in use (as of 20/06/2019)?**

- If 'Yes', what system is this, and is there a Pathology module actively in use or does the LIMS have an automated information feed into the EPR?
- If 'No', are there agreed plans to begin implementation of an EPR in your Trust within the next 3 years?

A1 System C Medway is the University Hospitals of North Staffordshire's Electronic Patient Record system, there is not an explicit Pathology module but Pathology tests and results can be ordered and viewed, respectively, through this system.

**Q2 What LIMS (Supplier/Vendor, version number) is currently (as of 20/06/2019) in-use across all disciplines managed within Pathology (such as but not limited to Microbiology, Blood Sciences, Cellular Pathology, Mortuary)?**

A2 At UHNM, Clinisys LabCentre v1.12 is the Laboratory Information System in use across all disciplines.

**Q3 When was the hardware for the server of this LIMS last refreshed?**

A3 The hardware is IBM p720 servers; these were last refreshed in December 2014

**Q4 When was a disaster recovery exercise of the LIMS/EPR last performed (month/year)?**

A4 Information not held.

**Q5 Does your current LIMS have inbuilt business intelligence software tools, such as SQL reporting?**

**If 'Yes', what is this tool and is it made available Trust/network wide or access limited to dedicated Pathology users?**

A5 At UHNM we have, Clinisys Path Manager. Access to this is limited to dedicated Pathology staff and UHNM Data Analysts.

**Q6 Is your Trust currently part of a Pathology network?**

- **If 'Yes', what LIMS are currently (as of 20/06/2019) in use within the networked laboratory sites? Has a formal process begun of selecting a single LIMS provider for your network? If this process has reached tender award stage / implementation, which LIMS has been chosen and what year is currently targeted for the 'go-live' of the system?**
- **If 'No', has a process begun of selecting a new LIMS provider for your Trust? If this process has reached tender award stage / implementation, which LIMS has been chosen and what year is currently targeted for the 'go-live' of the system?**

A6 UHNM has begun a process to select a new LIMS provider.

**Q7 Does your Trust use electronic requesting and reporting in secondary care?**

- **If 'Yes', what systems (as of 20/06/2019) are currently in use?**

A7 At UHNM we have, System C Medway Orders and Results

**Q8 Does your Trust use electronic requesting and reporting in primary/tertiary care?**

- **If 'Yes', what systems (as of 20/06/2019) are currently in use?**

A8 Clinisys ICE

**Q9 Do you currently use nPex or other 3rd party software for exporting / importing results and requests between either network partners or external reference laboratories?**

- **If 'Yes', could you provide details of which Pathology disciplines use this software, and who their primary reference / network laboratory is for this communication link.**

A9 NPEx is used for Biochemistry, Haematology, Immunology and Virology disciplines. The primary reference / network laboratory is Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

**Q10 Does administration of Pathology specific software (such as LIMS, document control, stock databases, middleware) lie within a dedicated Pathology IT team or a Trust-wide IT team?**

A10 Administration for Pathology specific software is handled by a dedicated Pathology IT team, who are part of the Trust wide IT team.

**Q11 Does administration of Pathology specific hardware lie (such as shared network storage, report printers, dedicated servers) within a dedicated Pathology IT team or a Trust-wide IT team?**

A11 As answer 10

**Q12 Does your Pathology department have a formal service level agreement or equivalent with your Trust/Network IT department with stated roles and responsibilities for IT maintenance and project development?**

A12 No

**Q13 If your Pathology IT has a dedicated team, how many WTE are assigned to this team?**

A13 5.8 WTE.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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.



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Yours,

Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**

