



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-302

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

Date: 13th September 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 22nd August 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding PFI scheme.

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 and 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual 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 individual departmental records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

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 can I request under the Freedom of Information Act the following information in relation to the Royal Stoke University Hospital Private Finance Initiative deal?

1) The projected total (whole life) cost of the scheme, in £, detailed when the scheme was first agreed (i.e. the original projected cost of all Unitary Charge Payments over the full life of the scheme).

A1 Commercially sensitive information relating to the Royal Stoke University Hospital Private Finance Initiative deal has not been disclosed as we consider that under section 43(2) of the FOI Act: *prejudice to the commercial interests of any party*, is engaged. Disclosure of this information could be commercially detrimental to the Trust and companies acting on our behalf and result in less competitive prices for services. The likely consequence of this would be increased cost for service provision to the Trust. We have considered how the public interest might apply, and although recognising that there is a strong public interest in openness there is a greater public interest ensuring an ability to obtain best value for money.

Q2 The projected total (whole life) cost of the scheme, in £, as at August 1, 2019 (i.e. the real cost for previous years and projected cost for future years of all Unitary Charge Payments over the full life of the scheme).

If there is a difference between 1 and 2, please can you provide details of?

A) The date(s) the projected costs changed

B) The reason(s) the projected costs changed

A2 As answer 1, in addition the Trust is applying sections 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed above.

Q3 A copy of the original contract/agreement;

A3 As answer 1

Q4 An itemised list of any payments made to the PFI contractors for services not included in the original PFI deal, from the beginning of the deal to the current date, and to include exact details of what was being paid for.

A4 As answer 1, in addition the Trust is applying sections 12 and 14 exemptions 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.

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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.

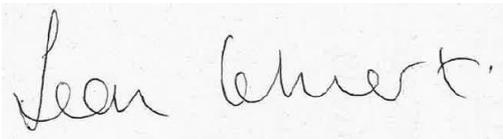
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager