

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-259

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

Date: 19th August 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 5th August 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding leaks on the hospital estate.

On 7th August 2019 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:
What you are referring to as “leaks”? Were you meaning major leaks on roadway etc. or small internal leaks?

8th August 2019 you replied with the following:
“Thank you for your email and processing the request. I am referring to both types of leaks.”

As of 1st 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 I would like to make an FOI request for:

- **The number of the leaks on the hospital estate that have taken place over the last 3 years.**

A1 The Trust uses incident management system called “Datix” some of the above information is recorded in this system, however not all of the information you have requested is recorded in the format you are requiring for the years and areas. This would therefore require us to extrapolate information from each departmental/area system and would require us to create a new report to provide this. The FOI Act covers information held by the Trust, and we are not obliged to create new information in order to answer an FOI request, As well as creating new information, this would also take in excess of the 18 hours allowed for under the FOI Act, and would therefore be exempt under section 12: *cost of compliance is excessive*.

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

However, 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 we can comply with your request within the 18 hour timeframe if your question is reduced to information that is held centrally. Please see below.

- 1/7/16 – 30/6/17 = 2 incidents reported
- 1/7/17 – 30/6/18 = 1 incident reported

- 1/7/18 – 13/8/19 = 4 incidents reported (about the same leak)

Q2 When and where on the estate these leaks occurred?

A2 Section 12 and 14 exemptions as detailed in answer 1. However we can report the following:

- November 2016 = Department (under a sink)
- March 2017 = Staff Change room (leak under a sink)
- January 2018 = Ward
- April 2019 =Ward (4 incidents reported)

Q3 Whether the leaks were water or sewage?

A3 All of leaks in the reported Datix incidents were for water.

Q4 The cost to clean up these leaks

A4 Information not held as all leaks were repaired under the annual maintenance budget and we are unable to breakdown into specific areas.

*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.

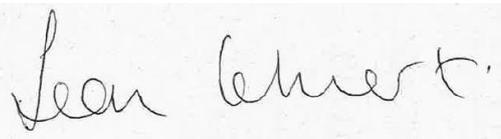
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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