



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-063

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

Date: 21st May 2018

Tel: 01782 676474
Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 27th April 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding joint working arrangements.

On 9th May 2018 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on what you meant by 'joint working arrangements with private companies', please can you provide further context

On the same day you replied via email the following:

"In terms of private companies, I'm interested in business organisations that are not government owned, NHS organisations, or charities. Let me know if you need more clarity on that. That would include both privately owned and publicly listed companies.

By joint working I mean situations in which the NHS and private sector companies work together (for instance, by providing expertise, staff, and other resources) on the development or implementation of specific projects. This is in line with definitions used by NHS England and the Department of Health. What distinguishes joint working other relationships (such as procurement, sponsorships, grants or donations) is that joint working describes a collaborative relationship in which the creation of responsibility for projects is shared.

A document issued by NHS England, the DH, and the ABPI provides the following definition: "Joint working describes situations where, for the benefit of patients, NHS and industry organisations pool skills, experience and/or resources for the joint development and implementation of patient centred projects and share a commitment to successful delivery." (<https://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/joint-working-nhs-pharmaceutical/documents/joint%20working%20toolkit%20dh.abpi.pdf> p. 4).

I hope that helps clarify what information it is that I am after."

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 confirm or deny whether the Trust entered into any joint working arrangements with private companies in**
- a) 2016**
 - b) 2017.**

A1 The Trust has not entered into a joint working arrangement with the private sector for the time period requested.

Q2 Please confirm or deny whether the Trust had a policy on entering into joint working arrangements with private companies in
a) 2016
b) 2017.

A2 The Trust does not have a policy on entering into joint working arrangements

Q3 Please confirm or deny whether the Trust currently has any policy on entering into joint working arrangements with private companies.

A3 As answer 2

Q4 Please provide details of, or a copy of, any policy the Trust has on entering into joint working arrangements with private companies

A4 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.

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'M' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mojgan Casillas
Interim Information Governance Manager