



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-129

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

Date: 12th June 2018

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

Dear,

I am writing in response to your email dated 25th May 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding supplier payments.

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 question 1 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 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 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 if your request is shortened to just the questions 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 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 What is the percentage of University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust suppliers paid within 5 days? (Please provide the numbers for 2015, 2016 and 2017)

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above: however please note that The Trust's current target is to pay all suppliers within 30 days of invoicing.

Q2 What is the percentage of University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust suppliers paid within 30 days? (Please provide the numbers for 2015, 2016 and 2017)

A2 Please see below:

- 2015/16 85.7%
- 2016/17 86.3%

- 2017/18 80.4%

These figures are based on suppliers being paid within their due date (if credit terms are < 30 days) or within 30 days.

Q3 Thinking about prompt payment of suppliers in general, what have been the biggest challenges for University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust in meeting the 5 working days goal for all government bodies?

A3 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

Q4 Thinking about prompt payment of suppliers in general, what resources or structural changes does University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust needs the most to ensure higher rate of compliance with the 5 working days goal for all government bodies?

A4 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

Q5 To the best of your knowledge, are there any specific services or products that can help with the prompt payment of suppliers and increase the overall percentage of invoices paid within the 5 working days goal?

A5 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

*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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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, stylized loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Mojgan Casillas
Interim Information Governance Manager