



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital

Quality, Safety and Compliance Department

Newcastle Road

Stoke-on-Trent

Staffordshire

ST4 6QG

Tel: 01782 676474

Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-374

Date: 1st October 2018

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 25th September 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding smoking and vaping policy.

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 your Trust's policy regarding smoking on hospital grounds? Please specify. For example:

- Is smoking banned throughout the site?
- Is smoking banned in the car park?
- Is smoking banned in private vehicles while on site?
- Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
- Are there smoking shelters (e.g. in the car park, in the grounds)?
- Are there designated smoking areas (e.g. in the car park, in the grounds)?

A1 Please see below:

Is smoking banned throughout the site?	Not specifically – see comment below
	Smoking of Cigarettes and ENDS is not permitted within the confines of any part of the Trust buildings or site (<i>other than in designated Smoking Shelters or Smoking Tolerance Zones</i>). The confines of the site are deemed to include buildings, grounds, entrances, and car parks, areas hidden from general view, pavements and walkways adjacent to the periphery/boundary of the hospital grounds. This includes the use of all tobacco products and also ENDS (e-cigarettes)
Is smoking banned in the car park?	Not specifically – see comment above
Is smoking banned in private vehicles while on site?	Not specifically – see comment above
Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?	Yes



Are there smoking shelters (e.g. in the car park, in the grounds)?	Yes
Are there designated smoking areas (e.g. in the car park, in the grounds)?	Yes – smoking shelters

Q2 On what date did the Trust adopt its current policy on smoking?

A2 The Trust adopted its current policy on smoking in July 2017

Q3 Does the Trust have any plans to change its smoking policy? If so, please specify what those changes will be. For example, do you intend to:

- Remove existing smoking shelters and extend non-smoking areas, or
- Permit designated smoking areas or install designated smoking shelters

A3 The Trust has no plans to change its smoking policy.

Q4 If the answer to Q3 is 'YES' please specify the date on which the Trust plans to implement the changes.

A4 Not applicable.

**Q5 What is the Trust's policy regarding vaping in?
(a) Hospital buildings including wards,
(b) Hospital grounds?**

A5 Smoking of Cigarettes and ENDS (e-cigarettes) is not permitted within the confines of any part of the Trust buildings or site (other than in designated Smoking Shelters or Smoking Tolerance Zones). The confines of the site are deemed to include buildings, grounds, entrances, and car parks, areas hidden from general view, pavements and walkways adjacent to the periphery/boundary of the hospital grounds. This includes the use of all tobacco products and also ENDS (e-cigarettes)

Q6 Does the Trust have any plans to change its vaping policy? Please specify how it will change and when.

A6 The Trust has no plans to change its vaping policy.

Q7 How is the Trust's smoking policies enforced? For example: signage, public address systems, use of CCTV cameras/wardens to monitor the site etc.

A7 The Trust provides signage and reminders to deter and control smoking. Any correspondence with patients informs them of the Trust's smoking control policy and that smoking is only permitted in designated smoking shelters. All employees have a responsibility, as far as reasonably practicable, to ensure that the smoking control policy is enforced.

Q8 How many recorded complaints has the Trust received from members of the public (including patients) about patients, visitors or staff smoking on hospital grounds since 1st January 2018?

A8 The Trust has five recorded complaints regarding smoking.

*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,





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance

