



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-442

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

Date: 25th October 2018

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 24th October 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding car parking.

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 Paid parking for visitors and patients at hospitals seems outrageous. The sick and the vulnerable are disproportionately hit by hospital parking fees. This clear injustice is backed up by several major national charities. CLIC Sargent found that some families are spending £50 a week on parking when their child is having treatment.

I am therefore contacting every NHS Trust in the country to gain a greater understanding of this practice. I request for you to respond to this freedom of information (FOI) request.

I would like to know from you:

1. Do hospitals in your area charge patients/visitors to park in their own car park?

A1 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) does charge for car parking.

Q2 If so, how much do they charge?

A2 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding car park charges, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link:

<http://www.uhn.nhs.uk/howtofindus/Pages/CarParking.aspx>

Q3 Do the hospitals operate their car park under a PFI contract?

A3 At the Royal Stoke University Hospital the car parking is outsourced, and at County Hospital (Stafford) car parking is an in-house contract.

*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,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance