



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital

Quality, Safety and Compliance Department

Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-472

Date: 26th November 2018

Tel: 01782 676474

Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 6th November 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding the Hip and Knee Group.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because some the information requested in question 1 (b) is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health 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 health 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 your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below

On 7th November 2018 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

- a) Please give examples of any *other costs* you are referring to.
- b) Are you referring to the purchase of a laptop/projector or the cost of renting a room with one provided?

On the same day you replied via email with the following:

"a) 'any other costs involved' by this I meant any extra costs involved with the current Total hip and total knee replacement group such as administration, transport and equipment ie) elbow crutches to be issued to patients.

b) I am referring to the costs of renting a room with a projector and laptop."

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 I am in my third year of studying Physiotherapy at Keele University. I am currently on a 6 week placement at the elective orthopaedic unit at the County Hospital in Staffordshire. I am currently writing an assignment for a service improvement that aims to run a group before patients undergo total hip and knee replacements that live in the Stone and Stafford area. I am aware that such a group currently exists and is carried out at Stoke hospital but often attendance is poor due to the distance required to travel by some patients from such areas. I therefore kindly ask if I could acquire some statistics of County hospital and Stoke hospital from the Trust:

Stoke Hospital

Current costs involved in running the Hip and Knee Group- i.e.):

- **Current Cost of an administration team that send the patients an invitation letter to the group**
- **Price of Technician Band 4 that holds the session**
- **Price of hiring out the room currently**
- **Any other costs involved**

A1 At UHNM all patients have to be referred to the education group by their Consultant. They will then be sent an invite letter to attend a group education session. We do have patients who contact us to discuss their personal circumstances and if they are unable to attend we will aim to either, arrange a 1:1 session or complete a telephone assessment.

UHNM have between 60-80 patients referred per month currently attending the education group with a Did Not Attend (DNA) rate of 4%. Patients from Stone and Stafford currently attend the group and we have had no complaints on there being no group at the County Hospital site.

We continue to monitor the efficiency of the group in line with staffing resources and if the number of patients located near to the County Hospital site were to increase to a viable number to ensure that the service was cost effective we would look to implement the same service on the County Hospital site.

Please see below:

a) Current cost of an administration team that send the patients an invitation letter to the group	This information is not held as we are unable to split out the individual task related to the invite letter as it is part of a number of processes completed by the administration team.
b) Price of Technician Band 4 that holds the session	Section 21 exemption- <i>reasonably accessible by other means</i> ; Please refer to the Agenda for Change pay scales as available on the NHS Employers website at: https://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/pay-and-reward/agenda-for-change/pay-scales
c) Price of hiring out the room currently	This forms part of a total Trust Estate therefore there is not a direct cost to the therapies department.

d) Any other costs involved	Section 12 exemption as detailed above, however, any equipment that is issued is on a loan basis and is funded by the CCGs in relation to where the patient lives. The costs vary greatly depending on which item is issued.
-----------------------------	--

Q2 County Hospital-

- **Number of Total Hip and Total Knee replacements that stayed at County hospital in 2017.**
- **Price of a bed per night in the Elective orthopaedic Ward at County Hospital**
- **Price of a band 4 therapy technician per hour at County Hospital**
- **The average price of hiring an outpatient Physiotherapy room in County hospitals therapy department per hour**
- **The price of a laptop and projector to be available for the sessions held in County hospital.**
- **The number of members of staff including the therapy team and nursing staff allocated to work weekends on the elective orthopaedic unit.**

A2 Please see below:

Number of Total Hip and Total Knee replacements that stayed at County hospital in 2017.	The number of total hip and knee procedures carried out at County hospital in 2017 was 537. Hip = 249 Knee = 288
Price of a bed per night in the Elective orthopaedic Ward at County Hospital	This forms part of a total Trust Estate therefore there is not a direct cost to the therapies department
Price of a band 4 therapy technician per hour at County Hospital	Section 21 exemption- accessible by other means; Refer to the Agenda for Change pay scales as available on the NHS Employers website at: https://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/pay-and-reward/agenda-for-change/pay-scales
The average price of hiring an outpatient Physiotherapy room in County hospitals therapy department per hour	This forms part of a total Trust Estate therefore there is not a direct cost to the therapies department
The price of a laptop and projector to be available for the sessions held in County hospital.	This forms part of a total Trust Estate therefore there is not a direct cost to the therapies department.
The number of members of staff including the therapy team and nursing staff allocated to work weekends on the elective orthopaedic unit	1 Qualified Physiotherapist and 1 Therapy Technician or Occupational Therapist

*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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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