



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-521

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

Date: 19th December 2018

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 28th November 2018 (received into our office 29th November) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding rota gaps.

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 your questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual rota/departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all rota/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 rota/departmental records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

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 This request is trying to find out about rota gaps in emergency medicine and is going out to many Trusts.

1) Please state the number of occasions in the last three financial years and the current financial year to date where a doctor shift in your accident and emergency departments was left unfilled

A1 Section 12 exemption as detailed above.

Q2 Please state the number of complaints made by doctors at your accident and emergency departments due to having to fill rota shift absences in each of the last three financial years, and the current year to date. Please provide a copy of the text of each complaint.

A2 As answer 1

Q3 Please state the number of occasions that rota shift gaps in your accident and emergency departments have been filled by agency workers in each of the last three financial years and the current financial year to date. Please state the cost of this to your Trust in each of these years



A3 As answer 1

Q4 Please state the number of occasions that rota shift gaps in your accident and emergency departments have been filled by staff working additional shifts in each of the last three financial years and the current financial year to date. Please state the cost of this to your Trust in each of these years.

A4 As answer 1

*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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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,



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of North Midlands
NHS Trust

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance

