

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-568

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

Date: 11th January 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 2nd January 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Mortuary fridges.

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 Please could you disclose whether the hospital has had to purchase oversized mortuary fridges to better accommodate obese bodies since January 1 2014.

If possible, please could you state the number of such fridges bought and installed for each calendar year:

- **2014**
- **2015**
- **2016**
- **2017**
- **2018 until the date of this request, please?**

A1 Please see below:

- 2014 =0
- 2015 =0
- 2016 =0
- 2017 =12 funding agreed as part of 2016/17 capital plan. Install January 2017, 12 additional bariatric spaces were added to the RSUH mortuary under the private Financed Initiative (PFI) contract.
- 2018 until the date of this request, please? Please see above

Q2 Lastly, please could you detail if you have taken any other moves to accommodate larger bodies in the hospital mortuary

A2 We have full contingency plans. The Trust has reciprocal arrangements with other local mortuaries / hospitals in the event that we have refrigerator downtime or lack of bariatric storage capacity.

*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