

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-674

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

Date: 4th March 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 9th February 2019 (received in this office on the 11th February) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding LIMS system (Laboratory Information Management System) and Digital Pathology in the Trust.

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 LIMS does your Trust currently use in the Cellular Pathology Department?

A1 Clinisys LabCentre

Q2 Can you please indicate the name of the supplier of the LIMS system for Cellular Pathology and the wider disciplines within Pathology. Can you also detail the contract expiry date?

A2 Clinisys LabCentre 31/03/2020

Q3 Can you indicate if the LIMS is something you may consider procuring in the next 2 years? If there are intentions of procuring a LIMS system in the next two years how much funding does the trust have to implement this?

A3 UHNM is currently in the process of developing a specification and a business case for a replacement LIMS, the Capital allocation is c£1m

Q4 If not- is there a reason why the Trust is not procuring a LIMS in this timeframe (be this new or a replacement)?

A4 Not applicable

Q5 What Digital Pathology Solution do you currently use in the Cellular Pathology Department?

A5 We do not have a current solution for Digital Pathology in the Cellular Pathology Laboratory.

We are currently working with the West Midlands Cancer Alliance as we have been nominated one of four regional hubs for Digital Pathology. We are involved in a procurement process to agree a model for Digital Pathology across the region. We have secured funding

Q6 Does the Digital Pathology Solution encompass other disciplines throughout Pathology or the wider diagnostic disciplines such as Radiology MRI CT PET?

A6 There is the potential to consider linking into the PACS solution/provider longer term but no decisions have been made regarding this.

Q7 Can you please indicate the name of the supplier of the Digital Pathology Solution for the Cellular Pathology Department, in particular the manufacturer of the Digital Slide Scanner? Can you also detail the contract expiry dates?

A7 A Digital Pathology solution is currently not in place.

Q8 Can you indicate if you are looking to procure a Digital Pathology Solution in the next two years if not already procured? If there are intentions of procuring a Digital Pathology system in the next two years how much funding does the Trust have to implement this?

A8 See response to Q5

Q9 If not- is there a reason why the Trust is not looking to procure a Digital pathology Solution in this timeframe (be this new or a replacement)?

A9 Not applicable

Q10 Could you please give me the name/ title/email/telephone details of the Trust employee(s) who are responsible for your LIMS?

A10 Marc Ryder, Pathology IT Systems Manager (marc.ryder@uhnms.nhs.uk) 01782 674282

Q11 Could you please give me the name/ title/email/telephone details of the Trust employee(s) who is responsible for your Digital Pathology system?

A11 Currently not applicable (as per answer 5)

Q12 Which Cancer Alliance does the Trust belong too? Who is in charge of this alliance? Please can you provide their title/email/telephone if you have these details?

A12 West Midlands Cancer Alliance

*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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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