

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-731

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

Date: 6th March 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 28th February 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Medicines shortage cost.

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 questions 3 and 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in pharmacy prescribing system. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all the relevant pharmacy prescribing records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all the relevant pharmacy prescribing 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 the relevant pharmacy prescribing 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 if your request is shortened to just questions 1 and 2 we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below/attached.

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 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information on medicines shortages at your Trust:

1) The total number of medicines that your Trust considered to be facing a shortage throughout:

- a. 2016/17
- b. 2017/18
- c. 2018/19 to date

A1 Please see below:

- a. 2016/17 –information not held for this period
- b. 2017/18 –information not held for this period
- c. 2018/19 - list of drugs in answer 2 is current supply issues

- Q2 A list of the medicines your Trust considered to be in short supply for each year:**
- a. 2016/17
 - b. 2017/18
 - c. 2018/19 to date
- A2 Please see below and in attached spread sheet:
- a. 2016/17 – no information on record for this period
 - b. 2017/18 – no information on record for this period
 - c. 2018/19 - list of drugs attached are current supply issues
- Q3 The total amount of money your Trust spent in response to these medicines shortages to find and procure alternative medicines – including the cost of "off-contract claims" from suppliers against NHS England/CMU contracts – in:**
- a. 2016/17
 - b. 2017/18
 - c. 2018/19 to date
- A3 Section 12 exemption as detailed above
- Q4 A breakdown of what this cost includes, if it includes costs other than that of finding and procuring alternative medicines, for each year listed above.**
- A4 As answer 3

*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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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