

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-707

Data, Security and Protection

Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 8th July 2020

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 8th March 2020 (received into our office 9th March) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding medical students

On 23rd March 2020 we contacted you via email with the following statement:

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

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 We are currently undertaking research to evaluate the role of medical students in the emergency planning of major incidents. We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

Do medical students feature in your Trust's major incident plan?

A1 Medical students would not feature as a role, but if on duty they would be asked to support by the wards

Q2 If yes, is this limited to clinical medical students (students that have had exposure to the clinical environment), pre-clinical medical students (students that have NOT had exposure to the clinical environment), or both?

A2 Clinical Medical Students

Q3 With regard to clinical students, is this just limited to students on placement at your Trust at the time of the incident?

A3 This would be restricted to students who were on premises at the time of any incident
In the event of ongoing incidents such the recent pandemic, students would be invited to take up volunteer roles appropriate to their competency level

Q4 Is there a designated meeting point for medical students in the event of a major incident?

A4 This would be as per ward instruction or building instruction within medical school buildings

Q5 Do medical students have a defined role detailed in your Trust's major incident plan?

A5 No

Q6 Do medical students receive any formal training in order to fulfil this role?

A6 This would be ward awareness in the event a mayor incident. In this case of an ongoing incident such as the recent pandemic, student volunteers have a formal induction into any role for which the have the appropriate competencies

Q7 Given the current climate, have medical students been included in any contingency plans for Covid-19 within your Trust, and if so, what role do they play?

A7 The medical student were not part of the contingency plan, however they did play a role as follows:

- Year 5 medical students upon graduation, took up interim FY1 roles
- Year 3 and 4 students took up roles as medical assistant
- Students who had an existing qualification, such as health care support worker, or nursing took up similar roles within our Trust or a Trust adjacent to their home.

*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 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager