

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-629

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

Date: 5th March 2019

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 25th January 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding unfilled vacancies and cancellation of operations and procedures.

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 question 2 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual departmental records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all 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 departmental 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 3 we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

On 1st February 2019 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on whether you meant the number of current vacancies released for recruitment and which are going through the recruitment process or the number of vacancies against the Budgeted Establishment?

On 18th February (received into our office 19th February) you replied via email the following:
"Thank you for your reply. The request refers to number of vacancies against the Budgeted Establishment"

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 supply the following information held on record:
What is your current number of current unfilled vacancies/positions across all departments?

A1 UHNM had a total number of vacancies at 31st Jan 19 as: 629.94 (Budgeted Establishment less staff in post)

Q2 How long each of those positions has been unfilled?

A2 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

Q3 Number of urgent operations and procedures cancelled per month for the past five years?

A3 Please see below:

Month	Year	Urgent operations cancelled
April	2015	2
May	2015	0
June	2015	0
July	2015	1
August	2015	0
September	2015	0
October	2015	3
November	2015	1
December	2015	0
January	2016	2
February	2016	1
March	2016	0
April	2016	3
May	2016	2
June	2016	1
July	2016	1
August	2016	2
September	2016	0
October	2016	2
November	2016	1
December	2016	3
January	2017	1
February	2017	1
March	2017	14
April	2017	7
May	2017	10
June	2017	0
July	2017	0
August	2017	0
September	2017	13
October	2017	4

November	2017	1
December	2017	1
January	2018	0
February	2018	0
March	2018	2
April	2018	1
May	2018	0
June	2018	0
July	2018	3
August	2018	2
September	2018	0
October	2018	0
November	2018	2
December	2018	7

*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,

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance