



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Data, Security and Protection**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-040

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding skills spend

On our acknowledgment we added 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.**

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 we contacted you via email as we required proof of identity, under the FOI Act which clearly states that if we suspect that the request has come from a Pseudonym we are entitled to request proof of the person's identity, as provision of a Pseudonym invalidates a request, therefore please can you provide a photo copy of your driver's licence or other official document that validates your identity.

Please note:

UHNM's request for identification is in compliance with the Information Commissioner guidance "Recognising a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (section 8) Version 1.2". We would like to draw your attention to paragraphs 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 22 and 35 of this guidance. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/receiving-a-request/> and "What makes a valid request?"

On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 you replied via email with the relevant proof of identity.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.**

**How much has this Trust paid in total in Immigration Skills Charges in 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, and so far in 2020/21?**

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding Immigration Skills Charges, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: (FOI reference 578-1920 – January 2019/20)

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Regulatory-information/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/default.aspx>

\*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.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

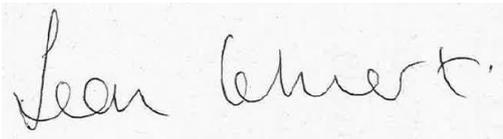
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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](http://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,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**