



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-395

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

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (received into our office 14<sup>th</sup> December) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding single use items.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 you contacted us via email with the following:  
"Thank you for your reply,

*Following up on my FOI request from a couple of days ago, I wondered if it might actually be possible for you to put me in touch with your procurement manager directly. I understand you must be very busy and we were hoping to get the results within 20 days, ideally before Christmas, and so I wondered if it might be easier asking procurement directly."*

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 we replied via email:

Thank you for your email below, however all information that UHNM release goes through a robust review to ensure that all the information is correct. We can only release your request once this process has been followed.

The FOI Act allows us 20 working days to complete, and we do our best to ensure that we comply with the FOI Act, however as I am sure you are aware there are unprecedented pressures for the NHS at the moment and our resources may be diverted to other areas in greater need.

I can assure you that the correct department has your request, and it is being worked on, however I cannot assure you that you will receive your answer before Christmas, the 20 working day completion date for your request is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021, as mentioned we will do our best to complete before then.

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 My name is [REDACTED] and I am a junior doctor currently working in [REDACTED]. I am hoping you might be able to assist me with a Quality Improvement Project I am currently involved in.**

**We are doing a national multi-centre QIP looking into the cost-saving potential of reducing single-use items in the NHS, in particular cups, cutlery and crockery. As part of this, we are collecting procurement data from all the NHS acute Trusts.**

With this in mind, I would be so grateful if you could provide spend data for FY 2019 - 2020 for the whole Trust for the following items:

- plastic cups
- paper cups
- styrofoam cups
- plastic forks
- knives, spoons
- plastic teaspoons
- plastic straws
- plastic stirrers
- wood stirrers
- disposable plates
- disposable bowls
- any other single use catering items.

Quantity used and amount spent for each item if available, or if not for individual items, then overall amount spent would be useful as well.

We are running slightly short on time though as we were hoping to have this information by Christmas to be able to launch a campaign to encourage staff to bring in their own reusable cups and cutlery in January. Are you able to get back to me with the above information by Christmas by any chance?

A1 The total spend for the period 2019/2020 for the items listed is approximately £40k

\*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.

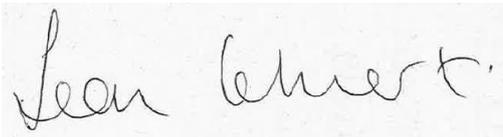
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



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