



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-099

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

Date: 15th June 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13th May 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding virtual and augmented reality in healthcare

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 19th May 2021 we contacted you as we required the following clarification:

Q1, Are you asking if we have these positions at the Trust or are you asking for the headcount or full time equivalent (fte)?

On the same day you replied via email with:

'We are enquiring with regard to the current headcount – how many people you have within those roles currently at the Trust.'

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 How many of the following positions do you currently employ at the Trust?

- a) Core training doctor (CT1 and CT2)
- b) Specialty surgical registrar (StR)
- c) Career grade surgeon

A1 See below:

	Headcount at 30/04/21
Core training doctor	49
Specialty Registrar - surgical	69
Trust Grade	115

Q2 Do you currently use augmented reality or virtual reality technologies within the Trust as a training / educational tool for medical education?

If yes, which technology?

A2 We have 3 desk top PCs that are set up to run virtual reality training via headsets and this is used currently for Diabetes training funded by HEEWM. We have no other examples at present

Q3 Do you currently use augmented reality or virtual reality technologies within the Trust as a surgical planning tool?

If yes, which technology?

A3 No

*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

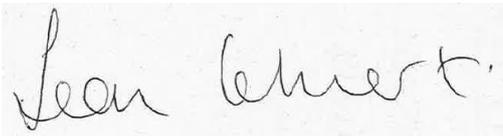
still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

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.

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