



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-745

Date: 27th February 2024

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 6th February 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding obesity and weight management strategy

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 Do you have a Trust-wide obesity and weight management strategy? If so, how is this implemented (for example, through delivery of Tier 3 obesity services of the NHS Tiered Care Weight Management Pathway)?

A1 No, but UHNM is a key provider within a new model of integrated care delivering Tier 3 weight management, due to launch across the ICS. UHNM also delivers Tier 4 bariatric surgery.

Q2 Details of staff training to deliver these strategies,

A2 Not applicable, although the New Model of care also offers and the accompaniment of a skills, education, and awareness workstream to its MDT and the wider workforce.

Q3 Details of any current training for clinical staff in the area of weight discrimination, weight stigma, weight bias and/or obesity awareness,

A3 The New model of care is seeking organisation agreement to sign A pledge to end the social stigma of obesity - King's College London (kcl.ac.uk) as well as preparing multiple avenues to support the awareness and reduction of weight bias and stigma. This is also being addressed within MECC discussions (Make every contact count)

Q4 The number of complaints made to the Trust where weight discrimination, bias or stigma was mentioned in the period 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2023,

A4 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 this question is not held centrally, in order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all reports/ complaints (1387) within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. This would entail UHNM in creating a new report, extrapolate information where it is present in these reports, in order to answer this request, the FOI Act states that we do not have to create

information in order to answer a request. 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 In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*.

Q5 Any planned or current actions in response to the Health and Social Care Committee report on 'The Impact of Body Image of Mental and Physical Health'.

A5 Our new ICS model of care recognises the link between body image, obesity, wider determinants, weight stigma and mental wellbeing, as discussed in the report and is addressing this in equal measures through its model of care and its associated skills, education, and awareness workstream.

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records