



**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 2022/23-183

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Doctors' Mess.

**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.**

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 am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding facilities available for non-consultant grade doctors.**

**Please provide answers for the questions below, with specific details for the following sites:**

- **Royal Stoke University Hospital**
- **County Hospital**

#### **Doctor's Mess**

**For the purposes of this FOI request a 'Doctors' Mess' is defined as a dedicated rest space, typically for the exclusive use of doctors. It does not include a rest space which is utilised by many different healthcare professions at once.**



**1. Is there a doctors' mess on site?**

If the answer to question 1 is yes, then:

a) Is the doctors' mess funded by voluntary financial contributions from doctors? If not, how is it funded?

b) Which other members of the multidisciplinary team have access/make use of the doctors' mess, if any?

c) If other members of the MDT are allowed access to the doctors' mess do they make the same voluntary financial contributions as doctors in instances where the mess is funded by voluntary financial contributions?

d) If other members of the multidisciplinary team have access/make use of the doctors' mess, when was the decision to open access to other members of the MDT made and who made the decision to do so? An approximate date is acceptable for 'when', and a job title is acceptable for 'who'.

If the answer to question 1 is no and the trust previously had a doctor's mess:

e) What was the date of its closure? An approximate date is acceptable.

f) When in existence, how was the doctors' mess funded?

g) What was the space reallocated/repurposed into?

A1

See below:

1. Is there a doctors' mess on site?	Yes, on both sites
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If the answer to question 1 is yes, then:	
a) Is the doctors' mess funded by voluntary financial contributions from doctors? If not, how is it funded?.	Funded by a combination of membership fee and trust contributions
b) Which other members of the multidisciplinary team have access/make use of the doctors' mess, if any?	Just for doctors – medical students attend with the doctors they are working with.
c) If other members of the MDT are allowed access to the doctors' mess do they make the same voluntary financial contributions as doctors in instances where the mess is funded by voluntary financial contributions?	N/A
d) If other members of the multidisciplinary team have access/make use of the doctors' mess, when was the decision to open access to other members of the MDT made and who made the decision to do so? An approximate date is acceptable for 'when', and a job title is acceptable for 'who'.	N/A
If the answer to question 1 is no and the Trust previously had a doctor's mess:	
e) What was the date of its closure? An approximate date is acceptable.	
f) When in existence, how was the doctors' mess funded?	
g) What was the space	

reallocated/repurposed into?	
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**Q2 Lockers & Changing Facilities**

**2. Does the trust provide locker space for rotating junior doctors?**

**3. Does the trust have on-site changing facilities available to rotating junior doctors, excluding those facilities located in the theatre department? Please provide details of the facilities available.**

A2 There are changing rooms on both sites. There are insufficient lockers for all staff on both sites. Both for rotating and non-rotating staff

\*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.***

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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.

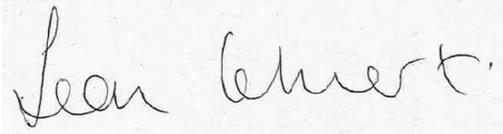
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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