



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-253

Date: 4th October 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 20th July 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding visitation policies.

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 Please find below a freedom of information request for your Trust.

Did your Trust alter or update its visitor policy in response to Covid-19, yes or no?

- a. **If yes, what changes were introduced?**
- b. **If yes, are any of those policies still in place?**
 - i. **If yes, which of those policies are still in place?**

A1 See below:

1. Yes
 - a. The Trust followed NHS England guidance regarding visiting healthcare inpatient settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic as it was issued and amended between 2020 and 2022, which advised initially on restrictions to introduce and later on how to manage visiting in a very careful and Covid secure way.
 - b. no

Q2 Does the Trust currently have any visitation policies that:

- a. **Would prevent a patient from receiving a visitor?**
 - i. **If yes, in what wards or circumstances does this apply?**
 - ii. **If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?**
- b. **Set a restriction on the number of different people able to visit a patient during their stay**

- i. If yes, in what wards or circumstances would the number of different people visiting a patient be restricted?
- ii. If yes, how many different people do these restrictions permit as visitors?
- iii. If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?

A2 Visiting arrangements are business as usual unless there are any specific infectious diseases, which would require the patient to be isolated.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Yours,

Rachel Montinaro

Data Security and Protection Manager - Records