



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-560

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 27th November 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Decontamination Services

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 we contacted you via email as we required a timeframe in order to collate the information

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 you replied via email with:  
*'An AER refers to Automated Endoscope Reprocessors and they will be found in the decontamination department.'*

*These are used to clean scopes used for endoscopies etc.'*

We responded with: 'we asked for a timeframe'

You replied with: *'All FOI requests are dealt with in the timeframe of 20 days.'*

We responded that we were aware of the FOI Act timeframe, but we needed to know what 'weeks' information you were after

You replied with: *'Just on average for a week – it can be approx as we appreciate that each week may vary.'*

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 Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to request the answers to the below questions, in relation to your decontamination services at the hospital trusts.**

**1) What is the age of the AER machines currently installed?**

A1 See below:  
County Hospital: 10 years old

Royal Stoke site - The Decontamination service at this site is supplied by the Trust's PFI Partners, therefore the information not held by the Trust.

**Q2 What is the approximate year the AER machines will be replaced?**

A2 See below:

County Hospital: Some will be replaced in 2024.

Royal Stoke site - The Decontamination service at this site is supplied by the Trust's PFI Partners, therefore the information not held by the Trust.

**Q3 What is the manufacturer/brand of the current AER machines?**

A3 Royal Stoke site - The Decontamination service at this site is supplied by the Trust's PFI Partners, therefore the information not held by the Trust.

County Hospital: Wassenburg WD440PT

**Q4 How many AER machines do you have across the sites?**

A4 Royal Stoke site - The Decontamination service at this site is supplied by the Trust's PFI Partners, therefore the information not held by the Trust.

County Hospital: 5 AER Machines

**Q5 Are you happy with your current supplier or are you experiencing problems?**

A5 The FOI Act 2000 is for the release of information that is held/recorded and does not cover the opinions of persons regarding suppliers, systems or procedures, therefore this information is not held.

**Q6 How many scopes are you processing per week?**

A6 Royal Stoke site - The Decontamination service at this site is supplied by the Trust's PFI Partners, therefore the information not held by the Trust.

County Hospital: Approx 300 if running all lists

**Q7 What is the name and contact details of your decontamination manager?**

A7 County Hospital: We do not have a decontamination Manager, however:

Tracey Willmoth\*, - [Firstname.lastname@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:Firstname.lastname@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Lee McNamara\*, - [Firstname.lastname@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:Firstname.lastname@uhnm.nhs.uk)

**Q8 As part of your contingency planning during a decant, replacement or refurbishment, would you or have you considered using a mobile decontamination unit?**

A8 Royal Stoke site - The Decontamination service at this site is supplied by the Trust's PFI Partners, therefore the information not held by the Trust

County Hospital: No

\*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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records