



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-717

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 24th January 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding water.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January we contacted you via email with the following:  
To continue with your request we require clarification on the following:

Are you referring to bottled water or mains supplier?  
What time frame are you referring to?

On the same day you replied via email with the following:  
*'In response to your clarification questions, I am interested in information relating to water mains, and I am interested in information relating to the last 5 years'*

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 information relating to how University Hospitals of North Midlands procures its water.**

**Please provide the following information to the email address specified below.**

**Who, in your organisation, is responsible for deciding how your water is procured?**

A1 Joint responsibility of the Energy Manager and the Procurement team.

**Q2 What is your current contract term with your water provider? Start date (MM/YYYY) to end date (MM/YYYY)?**

A2 Currently out of contract

**Q3 Who is your water retailer supplier(s)?**

A3 Water Plus

**Q4 What do you consider makes a 'good' water retailer?**

A4 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.

**Q5 How many water meters (SPIDs) do you have?**

A5 14

**Q6 What is your annual water usage?**

A6 335,000 m<sup>3</sup>

**Q7 What is your annual spend on water?**

A7 £846k

**Q8 Do you currently procure your water through a framework (e.g. Crown Commercial Services)? If so, which one?**

A8 No

**Q9 Do you use a consultancy or broker to facilitate your water procurement? If so, which one?**

A9 No

**Q10 Do you have an ongoing contract with a consultancy, managing agent, or another form of external provider that helps you manage your water usage and procurement? If so, who?**

A10 No

**Q11 Non-domestic customers are able to access the wholesale supply through either a retailer or via a self-supply licence. Have you ever considered applying for a self-supply license? Why / why not?**

A11 UHNM considered this, but had some concerns

**Q12 Is there any possibility your organisation will consider procuring their water via a self-supply license in the future?**

A12 Yes

\*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).

Yours,



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