



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-384

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Tel: 01782 676474  
Email [FOI@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (received into our office 1<sup>st</sup> October) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding temporary walking /mobility aids.

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 Using the Freedom of Information Act, may I please request the following information?**

**From January 1 2014 until the date of this request, how many temporary walking /mobility aids available for patients have been deemed irrecoverable / missing?**

**Please list the number of temporary walking / mobility aids by type (i.e. 45 x crutches, 3 x wheel chairs) and by year.**

A1 Information not held as all equipment is managed by Mediquip, a private company employed through the Commissioners on a service level agreement (SLA) to provide equipment across the health economy

Please also note that this information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: <http://www.uhn.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx> (July 2018/19)

**Q2 Please also state, where known, the amount spent on walking / mobility aids such as these each year.**

**The aim of this request is to identify how many pairs of crutches, etc., have not been returned by patients in recent years and the cost burden on the NHS. The word 'irrecoverable' is therefore used to weed out genuine cases where crutches are still being used by patients.**

A2 As answer 1

\*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).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle  
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance