



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-002

Date: 6th April 2021

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 2nd April 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding smoking.

On our acknowledgment to your request we added the following statement;

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 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 I was wondering if you could please tell me how your Trust plans to enforce the new smoking ban on hospital grounds once it takes effect in April.

A1 The NHS Standard Contract for 2020/21 requires providers to make 'reasonable endeavours' to ensure that the premises are smoke free, rather than imposing a full ban.

In October 2019 we introduced a campaign which saw the installation of a number of large warning notices at all of our entrances, to deter people from smoking on our sites.

Q2 Secondly for those caught disobeying the ban, if they are to be fined as a result, how much exactly would they have to pay out?

A2 Not applicable

Q3 Thirdly, does your Trust currently offer any on-site smoking cessation methods to encourage people to quit or seek an alternative to traditional cigarettes (such as e-

cigarettes)? Would these also have to be purchased or would they be distributed free of charge?

A3 At the Royal Stoke University Hospital site:
Public Health have commissioned a smoking cessation advisor to be on site 1 – 2 days a week to capture staff and visitors to the Trust.

Nurses have been training to provide brief intervention and offer alternatives, e.g. Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT). If patients want to access smoking cessation services on discharge a referral is made whilst an inpatient and are picked up by a smoking cessation service on discharge.

At the County Hospital (Stafford) site:

Nurses have been training to provide brief intervention and offer alternatives, e.g. NRT. If patients want to access smoking cessation services on discharge a referral is made whilst an inpatient and are picked up by a smoking cessation service the service on discharge.

*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.

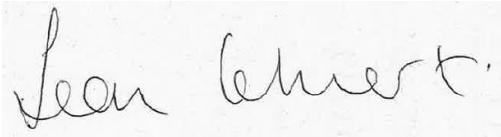
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

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-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager