

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-314

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

Date: 4th September 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 29th August 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding pension tax relief.

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 am writing to request information relating to the pension tax relief issue that is currently impacting a significant number of NHS employees across the country. I would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions. Please advise if you need any clarification and I would be happy to provide this.

1. Whether your organisation has a policy of offering payment equivalent to the employer pension fund contributions to employees who opt out of the scheme? And if so:

- a) When was this policy adopted?**
- b) Is this option offered to all employees by default, or is it considered on a case by case basis following requests?**
- c) How many employees have taken advantage of this policy since its adoption?**
- d) What was the total value of payments made until the end of July 2019?**

A1 UHNM does not currently offer pension tax relief

Q2 Whether your organisation has made an assessment of the number of employees who are likely breach the annual allowance?

If so, what assessment was made?

A2 An assessment of this has not been made.

Q3 How many employees have left employment as a result of pension taxation issues?

A3 This information is not held.

Q4 How many employees have applied to reduce their working hours as a result of pension taxation issues?

And how many such applications were successful?

A4 This information is not held.

Q5 Whether an internal briefing or assessment on the impact of changes to pension taxation has been provided?

If so, could a copy of that document be provided?

A5 An internal briefing on the current pension/tax issues has been reviewed but no assessment of impact has been provided.

*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 676474.



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Yours,

Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager

