



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-010

Date: 8th April 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 4th April 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding pre-paid debit cards.

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 (UHM) 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 Please kindly send to me, at the email address below, all recorded information that the Trust holds regarding its outsourcing of the provision of pre-paid debit cards in the financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22 and its current and planned outsourcing of the provision of pre-paid debit cards in 2022/23 and future financial years.

Such information should include all recorded information regarding: -

- a. the Trust's outsourcing of the provision of pre-paid debit cards for the use by staff, volunteers, patients and service users;**
- b. the ways in which the Trust uses pre-paid debit cards;**



- c. the full name(s) of any outsourced service provider(s) supplying the Trust;
- d. the contract(s) with any outsourced service provider(s) supplying the Trust;
- e. the date(s) on which contract(s) with outsourced service provider(s) expire;
- f. the total fees paid by the Trust, or budgeted to be paid, by supplier, for each of the financial years requested above;
- g. the number of pre-paid debit card users the Trust had, or anticipates having, for each of the financial years listed above;
- h. the tendering process, or other procurement method, under which the outsourced contract(s) were awarded;
- i. the tendering process, or other procurement method, under which the service will be re-contracted; and
- j. the date on which the process referred to in (h), for the re-contracting of the outsourced service, will commence.
- k. the name and email address of the person within the Trust who has responsibility for the Trust's management and provision of pre-paid debit cards.

A1 We make limited use of pre-pay debit cards and currently have one arrangement in place.

We entered into a free trial arrangement with Caxton FX Limited in March 2022 who have provided us with six pre-paid debit cards. We have provided these cards to six recently recruited overseas nurses for one month whilst they are undertaking initial training and setting up their bank accounts.

These cards are being provided to give these nurses access to a limited amount of funds in advance of their first month's salary. We anticipate that the cards will be cancelled following this initial month of use.

This is the first time we have used such cards and we have no other such arrangements for staff, patients, volunteers or service users. No such arrangements existed prior to March 2022.

As this is a free trial arrangement with Caxton FX Limited and we do not have a contract in place and did not need to follow the Trust's tendering process.

We do not anticipate using these cards in the long term but may use them in one-off situations, such as in this current instance, if they arise again.

The main contacts for these cards are Nick Sone* (Financial Controller) or Sarah Preston* (Strategic Director of Finance) at the following address:

Finance Department
University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust
Thornburrow Building
Thornburrow Drive
Hartshill
Stoke on Trent
ST4 7QB

***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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

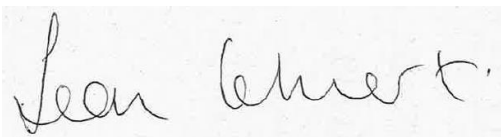
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager