



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-715

Date: 28th March 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 11th March 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Emergency Department Floor Plans.

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 My name is [REDACTED]

My thesis is to generate hospital architectural floor planning with artificial intelligence, especially for emergency areas. In this context, I need the floor plans of the hospital emergency departments as data. The hospital floor plans that I want to collect as data are floor plans of emergency departments of NHS hospitals in the UK. That's why I'm writing to you.

Could you please share with me the floor plans of the emergency area of your hospitals? I would be pleased if you could share it.

I am sharing with you how I will use the data I have collected on the subject and the approval letter from my school for your evaluation.

A1 "Section 31 (1) (a) Law enforcement - the prevention or detection of crime:
Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. It is in our view that to provide detailed information about the layout of our hospitals would be contrary to taking appropriate measures to manage such risks as crime and terrorism. The release of such information into the public domain would increase the likelihood that they would be the target of such activity.

Therefore S31(1)(a) of the FOIA is engaged as disclosure of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

The public interest test:

Factors in favour of maintaining the exemption

There is a strong general public interest in supporting public bodies to effectively protect the public health provisions they hold and to make efficient use of public funds to monitor security.

In relation to health care organisations this public interest is magnified as the Trust is one of the largest teaching Trusts in England, serving a regional, national and international population. It is the Trust's responsibility to ensure the safety of those present on its sites; we see and treat more than 2.2 million people every year, and employ approximately 11,000 staff. The Trust holds a significant amount of sensitive health information and specialised equipment. Protecting any information which, by itself or in combination with other information, could increase the likelihood of any form of attack would be very much in the public interest.

Factors in favour of disclosure

The public would appreciate assurances that vital public services such as hospitals are able to meet the demands placed upon them. There is also always a favourable public interest in disclosure arising from requests made under the Freedom of Information Act; in the spirit of transparency and openness.

Conclusion

In this instance the Trust considers that the balance of public interest lies in maintaining the exemption in the effectiveness of law enforcement and the prevention of crime.

*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 671612.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records