



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 2020/21-567

Date: 18th March 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email(s) dated 11th March 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding staff sickness.

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

On the same day you sent in another request on a similar subject, therefore we informed you that under section 12 of the FOI Act that we would be aggregating the two requests.

We later contacted you via email as we required you to clarify whether you meant calendar or financial years

On the same day you replied via email with the following:
"I would like the information in calendar year form"

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.

Request #1

Q1 Information requested: The number of sick days taken by staff at Stafford County Hospital in 2020



A1 Staff are contracted to work at UHNM and could work at any site. So although we may hold a 'location' against each staff record that does not necessarily mean that is the location the staff member worked at during the periods requested. Please refer to answer 2

Request #2

Q1 Information required: The number of sick days taken by staff at Stafford County Hospital in 2019.

A1 Staff are contracted to work at UHNM and could work at any site. So although we may hold a 'location' against each staff record that does not necessarily mean that is the location the staff member worked from during the periods requested.

The table below show the number of absence days in each period taken by staff whose location in their staff record is "County Hospital"

| Period | Absence Days |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 01/01/19 - 31/12/19 | 26,595 |
| 01/01/20 - 31/12/20 | 28,114 |

It should be noted that

- Services provided from each location may fluctuate, as may the staffing levels required to deliver those services.
- Staff may change post and potentially therefore change location.
- The data provided is an extract from the ESR System, taken on 11/03/21
- The data is for fixed term and permanent employees only

*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.

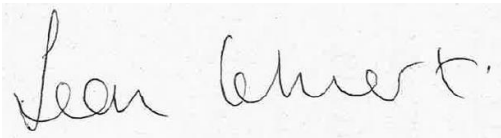
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager