



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-599

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

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 24th February 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding agency usage.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Who is the head of procurement responsible for approving Biomedical Science/Pathology agency usage at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHSFT?**

A1 Procurement is not responsible for decisions regarding the usage of agency or the bookings of agency staff.

**Q2 Who are the managers responsible for agency approval for Pathology/Laboratory agency usage (on and off framework) for the following departments at all hospitals associated with the Trust?**

- Blood Sciences (Haematology, Biochemistry, and Blood Transfusion):
- Infectious Sciences (Microbiology, Virology, Molecular, Serology, COVID):
- Cellular Pathology

- A2 The Directorate Support Administrator has this responsibility for all Pathology Departments.
- Q3 3: Please provide the contact numbers and email addresses in relation to question 1 and 2.**
- A3 The UHNM switchboard number is 01782 715444
- Q4 Have you used off-framework agency staff for Biomedical Science/Pathology between January 2021 and January 2022?**
- A4 No
- Q5 How much was your off-framework agency spend for each of the following departments between January 2021 and January 2022:**  
(a) Blood Sciences (Haematology, Biochemistry and Blood Transfusion):  
(b) Infectious Sciences (Microbiology, Virology, Molecular, Serology, COVID):  
(c) Cellular Pathology
- A5 Not applicable
- Q6 How many roles were filled by off-framework agency workers between January 2021 and January 2022 for each of the departments outlined in question 5?**
- A6 Not applicable
- Q7 How many unfilled roles did you have between January 2021 and January 2022 for each of the departments outlined in question 5?**
- A7 Not applicable

\*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.

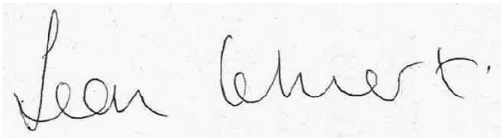
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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