



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-714

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 10th March 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding non NHS trade invoices that were not paid within 30 days for the last 6 financial years.

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 I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information from University Hospitals of North Midlands.**

**Information requested:**

**Please may you provide me, in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent electronic format, with a list of non NHS trade invoices that were not paid within 30 days for the last 6 financial years which would feed into the Regulation 113 Notice you are required to publish each year as part of your obligations under The Public Contracts Regulations 2015, with the following information for each invoice (where available):**

- 1) The name of the Supplier**
- 2) Supplier email address**
- 3) Supplier company registration number**
- 4) Supplier postal address**
- 5) Supplier telephone number**
- 6) Supplier website**
- 7) The date of the invoice**
- 8) The invoice reference**
- 9) The gross value of the Invoice**
- 10) The date the invoice should have been paid by**
- 11) The actual payment date of the invoice**
- 12) The total amount of interest liability due to late payment of the invoice**
- 13) The total amount of interest paid to the supplier due to late payment of the invoice.**

For the avoidance of doubt the above would be based on the data as summarised in the Annual Report on page 60 (2021/22) and the equivalent for the financial years 2016/17 to 2020/21 inclusive.

We expect that this information to be readily available and easily accessible in the electronic format requested given the necessity of source data which must have been required to prepare and produce the Regulation 113 Notice.

A1 See below:

- 1) The name of the Supplier= (provided on the attached spread sheet)
- 2) Supplier email address = (provided on the attached spread sheet)
- 3) Supplier company registration number= (provided on the attached spread sheet where this is on our ledger system – searching for registration numbers for all remaining suppliers would take in excess of 18 hours. 2,893 separate suppliers were paid in the period, 684 registration numbers have been provided and based on an estimate of five minutes per supplier it would take 184 hours to determine the remaining 2,209 registration numbers)= therefore section 12 exemption applies- detailed below
- 4) Supplier postal address = (on the attached where available)
- 5) Supplier telephone =number (on the attached where available)
- 6) Supplier website (on the attached where this is on our ledger system – searching for website details for all of our suppliers would take in excess of 18 hours. 2,893 separate suppliers were paid, 26 website details have been provided and based on an estimate of five minutes per supplier it would take 239 hours to identify the remaining 2,867 website addresses or conclude that the supplier does not have a website) = therefore section 12 exemption applies- detailed below
- 7) The date of the invoice = (provided on the attached spread sheet)
- 8) The invoice reference = (provided on the attached spread sheet)

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in questions 3 and 6 is not held centrally, b. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all registration numbers/websites within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all registration numbers/websites and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

\*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](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,



**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records