

Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-481

Royal Stoke University Hospital  
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (received 14<sup>th</sup> November) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding clinical decision support systems.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 I am researching the use of clinical decision support systems used in NHS Trusts. As such I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).**

**To assist you, what I mean by clinical decision support systems, these are stand alone or integrated software which helps clinical staff make safe decisions and take appropriate action. They can be algorithms, care plans, clinical referencing, or clinical condition specific guidelines which incorporate treatment or decision making.**

**Proprietary examples include:**

- BestPractice (BMJ)
- ClinicalKey, ExpertPath, STATdx, Arezzo (Elsevier)
- DXS
- DynaMed, DynaMed Plus, Isabel (EBSCO)
- First DataBank, Zynx (Hearst)
- IBM Watson, Micromedex (IBM)
- iRefer (MedCurrent)
- MedicinesComplete (BNF)
- Provation
- LexiComp, UpToDate (WoltersKluwer)
- ThinkResearch (ThinkResearch Corporation)

**To assist me with my research, could you please give me the following information please:**

**1. Does the Trust operate any clinical decision support systems (examples above?)**

◦ **If so, which ones?**

A1 No

**Q2 What is the cost of licences (and any other support) the Trust paid on clinical decision support systems in the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19**

A2 Not applicable

**Q3 Has the Trust developed their own electronic clinical decision support system(s)?**

A3 No

**Q4 If so, what were the WTE and total funding costs incurred in development of their own clinical decision support system(s) for the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively?**

A4 Not applicable

**Q5 What was the Trusts' total operating budget for financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively?**

A5 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding operating budget, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: (FOI ref 279-1920 August 2019/20)

[http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/2019\\_2020.aspx](http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/FOIdisclosurelog/Pages/2019_2020.aspx)

\*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.

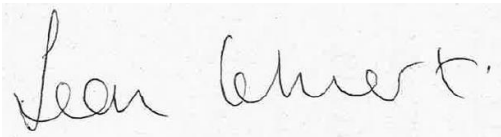
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Information Governance Manager**