



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-659

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th January 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and regarding Ambulatory electrocardiogram.

On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 we contacted you via email as we required a time frame for Q4

On the same day you replied via email with the following:

*'Over the period of 12 months please. If you have Jan 23-dec 23 that would be great.'*

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 we contacted you again via email for further information:  
Q2, what is a EDF report?.

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 you replied via email with the following:

*'We refer to European Data Format. (The European Data Format (EDF) is a simple and flexible format for exchange and storage of multichannel biological and physical signals.)'*

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 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information on your Trust's usage of ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitors and associated software for analysis reporting.**

**Specifically, could you please provide answers to the following questions:**

**1. Does the Trust use ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitors? (Yes or No)**

**1(i) If "Yes" then which make and models are currently in use and how many of each are currently deployed?**

**1(ii) If "No" then does the Trust intend to implement ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitoring in the near future? (Yes or No)**

- A1 See below:
1. Yes.  
1 Spacelabs LCF 58 units , Eclipse Pro 27 units and Eclipse Mini 17 units
- Q2 Does the Trust use software to read EDF reports? If ""Yes"" then which vendor(s) are used?**
- A2 No
- Q3 Does the Trust use an external ECG Interpretation Provider. If ""Yes"" then which vendor(s) are used?**
- A3 No
- Q4 How many ambulatory electrocardiogram ECG readings does the Trust perform each year?**
- A4 Approx 15,000 test p/a
- Q5 What is the split of the ambulatory ECG reading volumes in question 5, by length of recording? (e.g. 24hr, 48h, 72h, 7-day, 14-day)**
- A5 See below;
- 24hr 68%
  - 48hrs 10.5%
  - 72hrs 13%
  - 7d 4.5%
  - 14d 4%
- Q6 In what environment are the ambulatory ECG holters fitted? (e.g. secondary care, community diagnostic centre [CDC], primary care)**
- A6 Secondary and Primary care facilities (and community)
- Q7 What is your preferred buying method for these devices? (e.g. Direct, Supply Chain, Other)**
- A7 Direct
- Q8 How much did the Trust pay for its currently deployed ECG Holter devices and software (per device), and what costs are associated with maintenance, such as battery replacement, servicing etc?**
- A8 The Trust considers your request to be exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as to release this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust. The trust has applied the public interest test to this request and feels that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. However, we can band the cost as being a range between £1200-£2000

+ VAT per device. Maintenance costs are £0. There is a service cost for the analysers £20k – 24K for 3 analysers and software.

**Q9 Does the Trust have service contracts for the currently deployed ambulatory ECG devices. If so, how much is this per annum for the different brand of devices by vendor(s)?**

A9 No

**Q10 How many ambulatory ECG monitors did the Trust purchase in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 per make and model of Holter monitor?**

A10 See below:

2020 none,  
2021 - 6 spacelab lifecards,  
2022 - 3 spacelab lifecards 16 spacelabs eclipse mini and 19 spacelabs eclipse pro's.  
2023 - 4 spacelab lifecards

**Q11 What is the Trust's wait time for ambulatory ECG Holter Fittings and ECG reporting?**

A11 See below:  
4-7 weeks depending on monitor type  
4 weeks for analysis.

**Q12 Is the Trust meeting their targets for ambulatory ECG recording volumes and patient waiting times? (Yes or No)**

A12 No

**Q13 What are the Trusts biggest challenges for cardiology ECG ambulatory recordings?**

A13 Administrative, logistical challenges with patients attending appointments, staff shortages for analysis, over referral from Primary sector (beyond contractual obligation)

**Q14 Is the Trust considering purchasing any new ambulatory ECG Holter monitors? For replacement of old devices, broken devices, or needing more equipment?**

A14 Yes

**Q15 Who is the Trust's senior electrophysiologist or cardiology manager and what are their contact details? (Name, position, email, telephone)**

A15 The exemption which has been relied upon is section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with regards to the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the individual. The disclosure of this information is subject to balancing the legitimate interest to disclose against the rights of the individuals. Upon balancing these two factors, we have found that the rights of the individual outweigh the legitimate interest to disclose. Therefore, it would be unfair to the data subject if this information is disclosed. The disclosure of the name, job title, telephone number and email

address would not add anything further to this request for information. Furthermore, it would be unfair to disclose the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the individual to the general public. The individual would expect a right to privacy. They would only expect that their name, job title, telephone number and email address are disclosed to the relevant people in connection with Trust business and also in relation to the discharge of the responsibilities involved in their post. It would not be reasonable to disclose their name, job title, telephone number and email address to the general public. Furthermore, the release of this information may also lead to a greater number of unsolicited correspondences. The first condition under section 40(3A) has been contravened as it would not be fair to disclose the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the individual. Therefore, the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the individual, has been withheld.

Please use the framework on NHSE website

\*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).



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

Yours,

**Rachel Montinaro**

Data Security and Protection Manager - Records