



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-386

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

Date: 26th October 2018

Tel: 01782 676474
Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 1st October 2018 (received into our office 2nd October) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding hernia mesh implant devices.

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 question 4 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records 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 health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the remaining questions we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

On 2nd October 2018 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on the type of operation (Q5) you wanted information for.

You replied via email the following:

"Thanks very much for your email. With regards to question 5, if you are able to provide the total number of all hernia operations that involve mesh implants, that would be great - if not, please could you provide the total number of all hernia operations carried out"

On 3rd October 2018 we contacted you as we required further clarification on Q5, as there are 2 types of mesh implant – prosthetic or natural (this uses animal products), please confirm which one you require the information for.

On the same day you replied via email the following:

"Thanks very much for your email. If possible, could you split these up between prosthetic and natural? If that's not possible, please can we have just the prosthetic?"



As of 1st 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 How many hernia mesh implant devices have been purchased in each of the following financial years: 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18?

A1 Please see below:

- 2012/13 = information not held
- 2013/14 = 24
- 2014/15 = 403
- 2015/16 = 508
- 2016/17 = 612
- 2017/18 = 491

Q2 Please provide the total annual cost of hernia mesh implant devices purchased for those same years requested in question one.

A2 Please see below: (All ex vat)

- 2012/13 = information not held
- 2013/14 = £23,268.00
- 2014/15 = £54,065.37
- 2015/16 = £85,156.86
- 2016/17 = £203,905.53
- 2017/18 = £131,824.87

Q3 Please provide the different types of meshes purchased and the name of the manufacturer for those same years requested in question one.

A3 Please see below:

- 2012/13 = information not held
- 2013/14 = Egis, Raise Healthcare
- 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 all as follows:

Brand of Mesh: = Ventralex, 3D max, Symobtex, Vicryl, Egis and Ultrapro
Suppliers: = Bard, Medtronic, Johnson and Johnson, and raise Healthcare

Q4 Please provide how many patients received which type of mesh in each year requested in question one

A4 Section 12 exemption as detailed above.

Q5 How many hernia operations were carried out in those same years requested in question one?

A5 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI

Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers.

Please refer to the table below, information prior to 2012 is not held.

Type of Mesh	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Natural Mesh	Less than 5	16	126	244	288	214
Prosthetic Mesh	382	500	510	401	419	416

Q6 How many follow up appointments with the implanting surgeon are standard practice for patients who have had a hernia operation, either as a day case or inpatient?

A6 We would not follow up patients, but each patient's clinical needs are individual and this is taken into account by the clinical teams and after care would be arranged as required.

*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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance