

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-725

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 16th March 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding 3D Printing.

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 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to assist you with this request I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.**

**I would like to know:**

**Q1**

**a) Is 3D printing technology being used at your facilities?**

Yes

No

**If the answer to Q1a is Yes then skip to Q2.**

**If the answer to Q1a is No then:**

**b) Do you plan on utilizing 3D Printing technology in the near future?**

Yes

No

**If the answer to Q1b is No then you may skip the rest of the questionnaire.**

**If the answer to Q1b is Yes then:**

**c) What part(s) do you intent to 3D print (e.g. Prosthetic limbs, hearing aids etc.)?**

**A1 See below:**

Q1A : yes

Q1B : No

**Q2 What 3D Printers are being used for producing the parts (Brand name & model)?**

**A2**  
1. Stratasys J720 Dental (Used for Orthopaedics only)  
2. Formlabs 3B+

**Q3 What type of parts/products are being printed (e.g. Prosthetic hand, prosthetic leg, splint, hip joint etc.) Please be specific.**

A3 Maxillo-Facial and surgical planning and working models.  
Dental & Orthodontic working and study models.  
Surgical guides.  
Dentures.  
Occlusal splints and wafers.  
Orthodontic indirect bonding trays.  
Plastic patterns for casting.  
Orthopaedics:  
Pelvis  
Spinal parts  
Hips  
Foot  
No surgical guides

\*Please note no 3D printed appliances are implanted. They are all removable devices or planning aids.

**Q4 What materials are being commonly used for 3D printing at your facilities?**

A4 Formlabs and Stratasys polyjet materials.

**Q5 What ISO standards and/or other ASTM/BS standards are being followed when producing the parts/products?**

A5 Medical Devices Regulations (Annex 1)

**Q6 Please briefly describe the ethics process that is required for using 3D printing parts in patients?**

A6 Materials are specifically designed, tested and approved (CE marked) for specific applications. They replace traditional manufacturing methods, but are constructing devices that have been historically fabricated using different techniques and materials.

\*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 671612.

Yours,



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