Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-643

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Date: 1st April 2022

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 15th March 2022 (received into our office 16th March) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Electronic Patient Notes.

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

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   I would like to request information regarding the connectivity between devices used at the hospital bedside and electronic patient notes, as per the FOI Act. Please could you assist by answering the following queries, as per the latest data available?
          •   Name of Hospital

A1   As per letter head

Q2   What software is used to add information to electronic patient notes e.g. sunrise or POCcelerator?

A2   Currently CliniSys Labcentre is used to pass results into electronic patient records.

Q3   Which point of care devices are connected to electronic patient notes?

A3   Electronic patient records currently receive results from blood gas analysers at point of care

Q4   How do the point of care devices enter data into the electronic patient notes?
- **What software is required?**
- **Is data transmission through Wi-Fi, ethernet port or another means?**
- **Is the data stored on paper patient notes as well as electronically?**

A4   See below:
- Blood gas analysers are connected to Aqure data management software held on the Trust network (via Wifi or ethernet).
- Patient results pass through Aqure into CliniSys LabCentre (via Instrument Manager), then onwards to applicable EPR systems.
- Printouts are generated by the analysers and are included in hard copy patient records where applicable, or in the case of Trust wide systems failure.

Q5   Can a HL7 output from a point of care device wirelessly update patient electronic notes in your Trust?

A5   HL7 messaging is transmitted into Aqure via wifi or Ethernet and then follows the pathway already described in Q4.

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 671612.

Yours,

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager