



**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

**Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection**

Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-433

Date: 27th December 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

UHNM has received several requests that are asking for similar information that are from the same person/company, therefore we are contacting you to inform you that under section 12 of the FOI Act we were aggregating these requests on Procurement of healthcare and specialised transport and Healthcare and specialised transport.

Your new reference number for both is 433-2324

The section 12 exemption states:

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from:

- The same person or
- People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.

On 6th October 2023 we contacted you via email with the following

Just to update you, we are collating the data for the response to your FOI requests regarding procurement of healthcare and specialised transport and Healthcare and specialised transport We have established that there is a high volume of data that needs to be validated by multiple teams across the Trust in order to compile a response to yourself.

With the validation work that needs to be completed, please accept this email as notification that it is likely that we will not meet the 20 day deadline

If you wish to amend your request for less data, we will endeavour to complete within the 20 days.

We apologise for this in advance but we want to ensure that the information we supply you with is accurate.

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.

Request #1



Q1 I am writing with a Freedom of Information request regarding the use of healthcare and specialised transport services within your Trust.

To better understand how your Trust deals with healthcare and specialised transport services, please clarify whether your trust provides these services in-house, outsources them all, or uses a mix of both approaches.

Additionally, please provide the following data for your Trust and for each financial year 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23:

1. What was the spend (£ value) on in-house healthcare and specialised transport services within your Trust, and the respective volumes of patients / transportations that you realised with in-house capacity, split by:

- High Dependency (critically ill) patients
- Neonatal (newborn / premature) patients
- Non-Emergency patients
- Other (patients, not included in previous splits)
- Other (non-patients, such as equipment and medication)

A1 See attached Spread sheet

Q2 What was the spend (£ value) on independent sector providers for healthcare and specialised transport services within your Trust, and the respective volumes of patients / transportations that you realised with contracted independent sector providers, split by:

- High Dependency (critically ill) patients
- Neonatal (newborn / premature) patients
- Non-Emergency patients
- Other (patients, not included in previous splits)
- Other (non-patients, such as equipment and medication)

If you are unable to provide both spend and volumes, or if you believe that this request will cost above the legal threshold for FOI responses, please deprioritise the data on volume and advise on alternative action.

Furthermore, if any of the specific splits are not available, please provide total figures for the system and specify which main splits are recorded by your trust (in-house / independent sector).

For your convenience, I have attached an Excel file for you to use and provide the requested information. Please return the completed file via email reply.

A2 See attached Spread sheet

Request #2

Q1 I am writing with a Freedom of Information request regarding the use of healthcare and specialised transport services within your Trust.

To better understand how your trust procures healthcare and specialised transport services from the independent sector, please clarify how many private providers were contracted each year.

Additionally, please provide the following data for your Trust and for each financial year 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23:

1. For each independent provider, what was the spend (£ value) on independent sector providers for healthcare and specialised transport services within your Trust, and the respective volumes of patients / transportations that you realised with contracted independent sector providers, split by:

- High Dependency (critically ill) patients
- Neonatal (newborn / premature) patients
- Non-Emergency patients
- Other (patients, not included in previous splits)
- Other (non-patients, such as equipment and medication)

If you are unable to provide both spend and volumes, or if you believe that this request will cost above the legal threshold for FOI responses, please deprioritise the data on volume and advise on alternative action.

Furthermore, if any of the specific splits are not available, please provide total figures for the system and specify which main splits are recorded by your trust (in-house / independent sector).

For your convenience, I have attached an Excel file for you to use and provide the requested information. Please return the completed file via email reply.

A1 See attached Spread sheet: see also below- note that the following is for patient travel information only

Year 1 2021/22 – Spend Volume = £2,376,421.59 & Volume of patient transportation = 12,676

Year 2 2022/23– Spend Volume = £2,373,090.16 & Volume of patient transportation = 11,763

Year 3 2023/24 – (June – October inclusive) – Spend Volume = £987,358.10 & Volume of patient transportation = 2,918

Please note:

- That these numbers are of actual patient journeys (excluding cancellation and abortive journeys).

The information provided is pertinent to the current UHNM High Dependency contract providers term –as an total count for the each of the current providers contracted years – 21/22, 22/23 & 23/24 to time and not via the split /years above as this would take an excess amount of time- section 12 exemption as detailed below:

Not all of the information you have requested is recorded in the format you are requiring for all these years and would therefore require us to extrapolate information from five years of reports/records and create a new report to provide this. The FOI Act covers information held by the Trust, and we are not obliged to create new information in order to answer an FOI request, As well as creating new information, this would also take in excess of the 18 hours allowed for under the FOI Act, and would therefore be exempt under section 12: *cost of compliance is excessive*.

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 your questions is not held centrally, but may be recorded in records as detail above. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all spreadsheet/ 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 spreadsheets/ records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

*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.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

