

Ref: FOI-022 -202425-Medical equipment - MRI equipment

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing in response to your email dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding MRI Equipment.

On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 we contacted you via email with the following:

To continue with your request, we require clarification around dates that you require the information for.

On the same day you replied via email with:

- March 2019 to March 2020
- January 2022 - March 2024

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 you sent in another request regarding Medical Informatics, we responded with the following:

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 MRI and Medical Informatics.

Your new reference number for **both is 022-2425**

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.

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.

**Request #1**

**Q1 How many MRI Scanners do you currently have in the Trust/health board?**

A1 8 scanners

**Q2 How many MRI scans are requested each year?**

A2 Requested MRI activity (by date of request)  
EXCLUDES permanently cancelled activity.  
Event = 1 event can contain many exams, event denotes a single appointment/attendance  
Exam = total exam codes (note some exam codes may cover multiple body parts/areas & are still counted as 1)

Activity type	Event vol	Exam Vol	Financial Year Full
Requested	39282	78695	2019/2020
Requested	33977	69968	2020/2021
Requested	43778	87862	2021/2022
Requested	43791	85864	2022/2023
Requested	48546	96104	2023/2024

**Q3 How many MRI scans are done in a year?**

A3 Attended and performed MRI activity (by date of event)  
Event = 1 event can contain many exams, event denotes a single appointment/attendance  
Exam = total exam codes (note some exam codes may cover multiple body parts/areas & are still counted as 1)

Activity type	Event vol	Exam Vol	Financial Year Full
Attended	38191	76724	2019/2020
Attended	32002	66321	2020/2021
Attended	40301	82091	2021/2022
Attended	43061	84858	2022/2023
Attended	45915	91013	2023/2024

**Q4 Which make and model of MRI Scanner do you have installed across the Trust/health board?**

A4 See below:  
4 x Siemens Sola  
2 x Siemens Vida  
1 x Siemens Aera  
1 x siemens Skyra

**Q5 What is your 'Do not attend' rate?**

A5 Note: Based on Event count Vs attended value  
If a patient has DNA'd the same event more than once the event is only counted once

Activity Type	Event vol	DNA Rate	Financial Year Full
DNA	1943	4.8%	2019/2020
DNA	1475	4.4%	2020/2021
DNA	2104	5.0%	2021/2022
DNA	2528	5.5%	2022/2023
DNA	2048	4.3%	2023/2024

**Q6 What is your failed MRI scan rate i.e. scan abandoned midway during an investigation?**

A6 Unable to accurately obtain this without checking clinical documentation for all events. Some events may be re-scheduled for a variety of reasons. Therefore:  
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 this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in 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.

In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

**Q7 What percentage of your failed and DNA rates are due to claustrophobia?**

A7 We may not always be aware of why a patient DNA'd, Indication of 'claustrophobia' in Clinical history or additional comments is not fully indicative of the real reason for DNA's or cancellations. Therefore:  
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 this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in 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.

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**Q8 What is the number of patients per month referred to an open MRI scanner?**

A8 We do not have an open MRI scanner, Referrals are organised by the clinician responsible for the patient.

**Q9 The cost per patient to refer to an open MRI scanner (tariff you're charged).**

A9 Not applicable

**Q10 What was the cited reason as to why the patient was referred to an open scanner?**

A10 Not applicable

**Q11 What is your Projected MRI demand within the trust/health board (% increase)?**

A11 Approximately 6.5% per year

## Request #2

**Please can you provide responses to the following questions in regard to your PACS, VNA, RIS, Digital Pathology, and Cardiology PACS systems used within the Trust.**

**Q1 Please provide the name of the incumbent supplier for the Radiology PACS solution at your Trust and what is the current contractual end date?**

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding the above, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: previous FOI request reference 305-2223 answered in full September 2022, 730-2223 January

**Q2 Please provide the name of the incumbent supplier for the Radiology RIS solution at your Trust and what is the current contractual end date?**

A2 We do not have a separate VNA

**Q3 Please provide the name of the incumbent supplier for the Radiology Vendor Neutral Archive (VNA) solution at your Trust and what is the current contractual end date?**

A3 Not applicable

**Q4 Please provide the name of the incumbent supplier for the Digital Pathology solution at your Trust and what is the current contractual end date?**

A4 None incumbent. Project in transit to deliver DP solution via Sectra.

**Q5 Please provide the name of the incumbent supplier for the Cardiology PACS solution at your Trust and what is the current contractual end date?**

A5 Echo ImageVault, maintained by ImageX Medical Ltd

\*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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



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