

Ref: FOIA Reference 2017/708

Date: 28th December 2017

Tel: 01782 676474
 Email Leah.Carlisle@uhnm.nhs.uk

James Guyton Lee
request-449461-292eb865@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Guyton Lee

I am writing in response to your email dated 29th November 2017 (received into our office 30th November) 2017 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Clinical Negligence Claims and Medico-legal costs.

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 Please can you provide the following information in regard to Clinical Negligence Claims and Medico-legal costs in your organisation?

1. How much did your Trust spend on its Legal Department per annum in the following years?

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A1 Please see below:

2012	Information not held
2013	Information not held
2014	Information not held
2015	Information not held
2016	£561,803
2017	£585,478

Q2 How many whole time equivalent members of staff did you have in your Legal Department (please organise by pay grade) in the following years:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014

- **2015**
- **2016**
- **2017**

A2 Please see below:

2012	2 x Band 2 1 x Band 3 1 x Band 8a
2013	2 x Band 2 1 x Band 3 1 x Band 8a
2014	2 x Band 2 1 x Band 3 1 x Band 6 1 x Band 8b
2015	3 x Band 2 1 x Band 3 2 x Band 6 1 x Band 8b 1 x Band 8D
2016	3 x Band 2 1 x Band 3 2 x Band 6 2 x Band 8c 1 x Band 8D
2017	3 x Band 2 1 x Band 3 2 x Band 6 2 x Band 8c 1 x Band 8D

Q3 What was the total number of allegations or attempted clinical negligence claims against your Trust per annum for the following years:

Incident Year:

- **2012**
- **2013**
- **2014**
- **2015**
- **2016**
- **2017**

A3 Please see below: (Total number of clinical negligence claims registered with NHSR)

2012	172
2013	221
2014	353
2015	292
2016	235
2017	220 to date

Q4 What was the total number of cases and enquiries handled by your Trust's legal department per annum in the following years?

Incident Year:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A4 In addition to the above (Answer 3) the Trust has had the following number of inquests:

2012	120
2013	134
2014	139
2015	189
2016	192
2017	194

Q5 What was the total number of successful clinical negligence claims against your Trust in the following years?

Incident Year:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A5 Information not held: Information may be held by NHR Resolution and they can be contacted at the following link: <https://resolution.nhs.uk/>

Q6 What was the median and mean time (in days) from complaint to closure of each case/enquiry handled by your Trust's legal department in 2015 and 2016. Please only supply data for cases which did not result in a successful claim.

A6 Information not held.

Q7 What was the median and mean time (in days) from complaint to closure of each successful claim against your Trust's legal department in 2015 and 2016.

A7 Information not held.

Q8 What was the total sum paid out in successful and settled clinical negligence claims in the following years:

Incident Year:

- 2012

- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A8 As answer 5

Q9 What was the total sum paid out for legal costs (not damages) for completed clinical negligence claims in the following years:

Incident Year:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A9 As answer 5

Q10 What was the total sum paid out in completed clinical negligence claims in the Neurosurgery Department in the following years:

Incident Year:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A10 As answer 5

Q11 What was the total sum paid out in completed clinical negligence claims in the Spinal Surgery Department (if separate from Neurosurgery) in the following years:

Incident Year:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A11 As answer 5

Q12 What was the total sum paid out in completed clinical negligence claims in the Cardiology Department in the following years:

Incident Year:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A12 As answer 5

Q13 What was the total sum paid out in completed clinical negligence claims in the Oncology Department in the following years:

Incident Year:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A13 As answer 5

Q14 What was the total sum paid out in completed clinical negligence claims in the Trauma & Orthopaedic Department in the following years:

Incident Year:

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

A14 As answer 5

Q15 What proportion of completed clinical negligence claims in the Spinal Surgery and Neurosurgery departments were attributed to the following in:

2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017:

- a) Delay in diagnosis
- b) Delay in treatment
- c) Poor communication or documentation
- d) Poor clinical decision making

A15 As answer 5

Q16 Does your Trust use a digital or online referral system in any of its acute medical or surgical specialties and when was it implemented?

A16 Yes.

Q17 Who is the Vendor of this referral system?

A17 NHS digital is vendor of the referral system.

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