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Cardiff and Vale  
University Health Board

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/120

### Clinical Imaging Equipment

#### 1. What is your overall spend on medical imaging products and services for the current year?

After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers this information to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 43) Commercial Interests. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if:

- the information requested is a trade secret, or
- release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the UHB when deciding whether to disclose information because it considered that in doing so there could be a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of both Cardiff University and the UHB. As this is a qualified exemption, the UHB is required to complete a public interest test in deciding whether it is in the public's interest to withhold or disclose the information.

**In favour of disclosure:** There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of spending of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

**Against disclosure:** It has been established that releasing the information sought under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with suppliers. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in suppliers not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body (as upheld in ICO decision notice FS50473543 ICO v Royal Marsden Hospital Trust).

**Decision:** The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the supplier to which this information concerns. The UHB believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in





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the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

**2. How much do you spend on each modality requested below for the current year?**

- a) Computed Tomography (CT)
- b) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- c) Ultrasound
- d) Fluoroscopy
- e) Mammography
- f) Nuclear
- g) Mobile X-ray
- h) Static X-ray

Please see question 1.

**3. A list of the current equipment held by the Trust across all hospital sites for each of the following: Example Response: 3 x Siemens Acuson SC2000, Initial cost £ 29,000, Contract start date 10/02/2022 Contract end date 10/02/2026, 6 years old**

- a) Supplier
- b) Product
- c) Contract start date
- d) Contract expiry date
- e) Number of devices
- f) Age of product

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees' regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.





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#### 4. Annual cost of maintenance of equipment

Please see question 1.

#### 5. What percentage of your imaging equipment has an element of Artificial Intelligence?

Please see question 3.

##### Definitions:

*Computed Tomography (CT) - is a medical imaging technique that uses computer-processed combinations of multiple X-ray measurements taken from different angles to produce images of a body, allowing the user to see inside the body without cutting. They are used within Medical Physics and Radiology departments.*

*Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) - is a medical imaging technique used in radiology to form pictures of the anatomy and the physiological processes of the body. They are used in Medical Physics and Radiology departments.*

*Ultrasound – is an imaging method that uses high-frequency sound waves to produce images of structures within the body. Ultrasound machines are used in various departments such as Radiology, Renal, Urology, Vascular, Clinical Science and Medical Physics.*

*Fluoroscopy - is an imaging technique that uses X-rays to obtain real-time moving images of the interior of an object. These products are used in Radiology departments.*

*Mammography – is a screening system used to detect and diagnose breast cancer by taking an X-ray of the breast. These products are used by Radiology and Breast Imaging professionals.*

*Nuclear - is a specialised area of radiology that uses very small amounts of radioactive materials, or radiopharmaceuticals, to examine organ function and structure. These products are used in Medical Physics and Radiology departments.*

*Mobile X-ray - these units are used for radiographic imaging of patients who cannot be moved to the radiology department and who are in areas, such as intensive and critical care units or operating and emergency rooms, that lack standard, fixed radiographic equipment. Medical applications can include general radiography and orthopaedic, paediatric, skeletal, and abdominal imaging. They are usually used by Surgeons and Medical Physics and Radiology professionals.*

*Static X-ray - is used for taking standard x-rays. These products are used in Medical Physics and Radiology departments.*

