

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/246

Clinical Systems

Information Requested:

Can you please forward responses to the questions below regarding your trust's BI & Data Warehousing, E-rostering (staffing), Order Communications, Pathology, Pharmacy, and Scheduling systems? Please enter 'No System Installed' under supplier name if your trust does not use the system:

1. System type – BI & Data Warehousing

- **Supplier name** – Hayne's Solutions
- **System name** – IBM Cognos
- **Date installed** – 2005
- **Contract expiration** – Rolling
- **Is this contract annually renewed?** – Yes
- **Do you currently have plans to replace this system?** – No
- **Procurement framework** – In-line with national guidance.
- **Other systems it integrates with?** – In conjunction with Data Warehouse.
- **Total value of contract (£)** – 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 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. System type – E-Rostering (staffing)

- **Supplier name –**
- **System name –**
- **Date installed -**
- **Contract expiration -**
- **Is this contract annually renewed? - Yes/No**
- **Do you currently have plans to replace this system? - Yes/No**
- **Procurement framework -**
- **Other systems it integrates with? –**
- **Total value of contract (£) –**

After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) believes that Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies in this instance and is refusing your request. The reason for relying on this exemption is set out below.

Under Section 21 of the Act, an organisation does not have to respond to a request if the information being sought is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The UHB has applied this exemption to your request as the information you are seeking is available in the public domain. Under our Section 16 obligation to advise and assist, I can confirm that the relevant data can be found with the following link:

<https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-and-assurance/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/months/december-2021/foi21579-rota-and-rostering-supplier-informationpdf/>

3. System type – Order Communications

- **Supplier name –** In-house developed by DHCW
- **System name –** Welsh Clinical Portal
- **Date installed –** Please see above.
- **Contract expiration –** Not applicable.
- **Is this contract annually renewed? –** Not applicable.
- **Do you currently have plans to replace this system? –** No
- **Procurement framework –** Not applicable.
- **Other systems it integrates with? –** None.

- **Total value of contract (£)** – After considering your request, 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:
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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).

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4. System type - Pathology

- **Supplier name** – Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW)
- **System name** – Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)
- **Date installed** – The UHB does not hold this information. However, under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, I can inform you that Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) may be able to answer this request. Please see the link below for DHCW's contact information:

<https://dhcw.nhs.wales/use-of-site/freedom-of-information/>

- **Contract expiration** – Please see above.
- **Is this contract annually renewed?** – Please see above.
- **Do you currently have plans to replace this system?** – No
- **Procurement framework** – A part of the All Wales partnership
- **Other systems it integrates with?** – Please see above.
- **Total value of contract (£)** – After considering your request, 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:
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5. System type – Pharmacy

- **Supplier name** – CareFlow
- **System name** – Wellsky
- **Date installed** – 08/2021
- **Contract expiration** – 07/2028
- **Is this contract annually renewed?** – No
- **Do you currently have plans to replace this system?** – No
- **Procurement framework** – All Wales contract
- **Other systems it integrates with?** – MPI
- **Total value of contract (£)** – After considering your request, 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:
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- **Notes - e.g. we are currently out to tender – None.**

System definition:

BI & Data Warehousing – integrates data and information collected from various sources, e.g. electronic patient/health records, enterprise resource planning systems, radiology and lab databases, wearables etc, into one comprehensive database

E-rostering (staffing) - An electronic staff management tool that enables trusts to plan staffing requirements, report on enhanced hours, overtime, sickness, TOIL and annual leave. Common suppliers include Allocate Software.

Order Communications - Diagnostic tests are electronically ordered and communicated, rather than being ordered on paper

Pathology - Pathology testing is managed electronically

Pharmacy - Pharmacy orders and stock control managed electronically

