

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/418

Machine use

Information Requested:

Please provide information relating to the questions below for the machine types and years listed, Years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022. Machine types: MRI scanner, PET scanner, CT scanner, linear accelerator (LINAC) and surgical robots (both Versius and Da Vinci).

- For each year and for each machine type, how many units were owned or leased? (Please also provide dates for new machines that were either commissioned or decommissioned within a year).**

	Year	MRI Scanner	CT Scanner	
	2019-20	7	5	
	2020-21	7	5	
	2021-22	7	4	
	2022-23	7	4	
MRI Scanners	Asset No	Purchase Date	Decommission Date	Still in Use at end of 2022-23
	104112	15/03/2006	Jan-23	No
	114348	15/03/2015		YES
	120193	15/09/2017		YES
	120194	15/09/2017		YES
	121633	15/03/2020		YES
	121634	15/03/2020		YES
	121678	15/03/2020		YES
	127591	15/03/2023		YES
CT Scanners	Asset No	Purchase Date	Decommission Date	Still in Use at end of 2022-23
	108275	15/03/2009	Mar-21	No
	111344	15/03/2011		Yes
	111346	15/03/2011	Mar-23	No
	114548	15/03/2015		Yes
	121681	15/03/2020		Yes
	127594	15/03/2023		N/A

- For each machine that was either owned or leased between 2018 and 2022, please disclose a) the date of purchase, b) the capital value and c) whether the machine was still in use at the end of 2022 and, if not, the date it was decommissioned.**

1 x CT van for the duration of the CT build in UHL from 17/1/23 for 12 weeks. This was to replace activity, not increase activity.

1 x MRI van from 19/2/21 to end of March 2021. Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (The UHB) does not hold information regarding the dates of the use of this machine. This was to increase capacity.

1 x CT Van this was also to allow displacement of work not for an increase in activity. The van was located on site for service from 12/10/20 until 16/12/20 approximately.

Leased 1 x CT van 17.1.23 for 12 weeks to support the CT build in UHL. This was to displace activity, not increase activity.

In respect of capital value, 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 the supplier 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.

- 3. For each year and for each machine type, please provide details on the number of times they were used.**

Please see attached spreadsheet.

- 4. For each year and for each machine type, please provide details on their availability in hours per day and days per week for use by number of scans/treatments/operations/procedures (apply when relevant).**

Please see attached spreadsheet which represents all information held by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.