

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/23/678
Staffing Systems

Under the provision of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 please can you answer the following questions relating to the staffing system(s) you currently use as of December 2023.

E-Rostering

For each of the staff group categories:	Medical and Dental	Nursing and HCAs	AHPs and HSS
Does your Trust use an E-Rostering provider? (Yes/No - if No, have you previously tried to implement an e-rostering provider? Please name the provider).	Yes	Yes	Yes
What is the name of your E-Rostering provider?	(1) Bio-Optronics, Inc; (2) RotaMap; (3) MediRota; (4) CLW; (5) IQUS Ltd; (6) RotaMap	RLDatix-Allocate	RLDatix-Allocate
When does the contract for the software you currently use for E-Rostering expire? (dd/mm/yyyy)	(1) 07/12/2024; (2) 31/03/2024; (3) 01/04/2024; (4) 14/04/2024; (5) 22/06/2024; (6) 13/04/2026	31/01/2026	31/01/2026
How many licenses is your contract for?			
What is the cost per annum for the provider?			

Bank

For each of the staff group categories:	Medical and Dental	Nursing and HCAs	AHPs and HSS
Do you have a Digital staff bank provider?	Yes	Yes	Yes
What is the name of your Digital staff bank provider?	Medacs Healthcare	RLDatix-Allocate	RLDatix-Allocate

What is the contract expiry date for the provider you currently use for your Digital staff bank? (dd/mm/yyyy)	August 2024	31/01/2026	31/01/2026
What is the cost per annum for the provider?			

Agency Management Software/Agency Tech

For each of the staff group categories:	Medical and Dental	Nursing and HCAs	AHPs and HSS
Do you use a Agency Tech provider? (Yes/No/Not Applicable)	No	No	No
What is the name of your VMS Provider?			
What is the contract expiry date for the provider you currently use? (dd/mm/yyyy)			
What is the cost per annum for the provider?			

After considering your request for the number of licences and the cost per annum for the above systems, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers the information to be exempt from disclosure under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('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 is not in the public's interest to disclose this information.