

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/23/683**  
**Facilities Management**

I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, the following information regarding your facilities management approach:

- **If any, which software solution(s) are used to manage your corporate property/assets, ownerships and occupations, lease agreements and facilities management (CAFM), and who are your current provider(s)?**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) uses MiCAD Systems (UK) and contributes towards Welsh Government's ePIMs system.

- **What is the start date and duration of the contract(s)?**

1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024.

- **Is there an extension clause in the contract(s) and, if so, the duration of the extension?**

Not applicable.

- **Has a decision been made yet on whether the contract(s) will be extended or renewed?**

Not at this time.

- **What is the annual value of the contract(s)?**

After considering your request, the UHB considers this 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 was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

- **What is the total contract value of each contract?**

The UHB believes that the section 43 exemption applies here and is therefore withholding this information.

- **How was the contract(s) procured, e.g., framework/tender?**

The contract was procured following a VEAT Publication on Sell2Wales.

- **Who is the senior officer responsible for these systems?**

The UHB's Capital, Estates and Facilities Department.