

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/504**  
**Temperature Management Systems**

**Information Requested:**

I would like to request a list of all the patient warming/cooling/ targeted temperature management systems currently in use within the Cardiff and Vale trust please, specifically Arctic Sun, CSZ/ Blankterol, Zoll, MTRE Criticool and Stryker Altrix.

Please could you provide:

1. Name of hospital
2. Department
3. Manufacturer and model of unit(s) in use
4. Age of each unit (date installed or date purchased)
5. If they are on a consumable contract or purchased outright
6. The cost of the device
7. E-mail address of equipment lead for theatres and ICU

**Response Details:**

**In response to questions 1-4:**

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

**In response to question 5:**

The Artic Suns and Bair Huggers are loan/contract devices via a consumable contract.

There are two CritiCool units owned by the University Health Board (the UHB), only in the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit, Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales.

There are four Tecotherm units owned by the UHB, only in the Neonatal Unit, University Hospital of Wales.

**In response to question 6:**

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 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.

#### **In response to question 7:**

After considering your request, the UHB believes that the data requested is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.