

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/262
Teleradiology Reporting

Please confirm the below information for each contract you hold with a teleradiology reporting provider:	Everlight	Hexarad
Name	All Wales Contract	All Wales Contract
Contract start date	1 October 2021	Service currently unused
Contract end date	31 October 2022	Service currently unused
Option for extension/roll-over period	Two one-year extension options	Service currently unused
Procurement route/framework used	Direct Award via the All Wales Contract for Provision of Additional Radiology Reporting Capacity	Service currently unused
Exclusivity or volume commitment within contract	None committed. Call-off order raised based on average monthly expenditure	Service currently unused
When did you last benchmark the contract against other options available?	31 October 2023 upon award of second extension option	Service currently unused
Do you expect to replace or renew the contract in 2024?	Not held	Not held

In respect of the information sought in the bottom row of the above table, please note that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 grants individuals the right to access information held by a public authority at the time of request, subject to any exemptions. Public authorities are not expected to comply with a request where doing so would involve creating new information which does not already exist.

Please provide the below information for each teleradiology provider above:	Everlight	Hexarad
Number of CT/MRI examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 inclusive that require a 1-hour turnaround time or quicker (Emergency reporting)	337	0
Please confirm the daily start and end time of your external Emergency reporting provision?	00:00 to 08:00	Service currently unused
Number of CT/MRI examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 inclusive that require a turnaround time of between 1 and 12 hours (Urgent reporting)	0	0
Number of CT/MRI examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 inclusive that require a turnaround time of 24 hours (Urgent reporting)	0	0
Number of CT and MRI examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December	1,253	0

2023 that require reporting in over 24 hours turnaround time (General reporting)		
Number of X-Ray examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 that require reporting in over 24 hours turnaround time (General reporting)	0	0

Please provide the below information for each teleradiology provider above:	Everlight	Hexarad
Total financial expenditure for CT/MRI examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 inclusive that require a 1-hour turnaround time or quicker (Emergency reporting)	Section 43	Nil
Total financial expenditure for CT/MRI examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 inclusive that require a turnaround time of between 1 and 12 hours (Urgent reporting)	Nil	Nil
Total financial expenditure for CT/MRI examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 inclusive that require a turnaround time of 24 hours (Urgent reporting)	Nil	Nil
Total financial expenditure for CT and MRI examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 inclusive that require a 48 hour turnaround time or longer (General reporting)	Section 43	Nil
Total financial expenditure for Xray examinations reported between 1 st September 2023 and 31 st December 2023 inclusive that require a 48-hour turnaround time or longer (General reporting)	Nil	Nil

After considering your request in the above table, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers certain 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.

If you do not use a teleradiology provider for your Emergency reporting:

If Emergency reporting (up to 1-hour) is not outsourced, then please confirm the number of examinations reported locally between 1st September 2023 and 31st December 2023 inclusive that require a 1-hour turnaround time or quicker (Emergency reporting) between the hours of 5pm and 9am

In completing a search for the information requested, the UHB has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within Regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the section 12 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within Regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the Fees Regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The Fees Regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.