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Request for Information Reference: 03.20.34
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

3rd June 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 19 March 2020 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We have dealt with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding IT systems. Specifically you requested information as follows:

1. *What is the name of your PAS supplier?*

Answer: Camis is the Trust's PAS supplier.

a) *How much per does this cost per annum?*

Answer: This costs approximately £400,000.00 per annum.

b) *What is the length of your contract for this service?*

Answer: The length of the contract is 3 years.

c) *What is the total cost of your contract?*

Answer: The total cost of this contract is approximately £1,200,000.00.

d) *When does this contract expire?*

Answer: The contract expires in March 2022.

2. *What is the name of your EPR supplier? (If you do not have an EPR simply state "None").*

Answer: The name of the EPR supplier is DXC i.Clinical Manager, TPP SystemOne

a) How much per does this cost per annum?

Answer: The costs is approximately £154,000 per annum for I.Clinical Manager. With regards to the annual cost for SystemOne we are unable to provide the information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

Section 43 (2) exempts from disclosure the following:

(2) Information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information.

Our supplier has made clear representation that pricing for the service is commercially sensitive information, the disclosure of which would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests, as it would provide alternative bidders with an understanding of their costs (which would not be reciprocated) with respect to similar contracts in the NHS, thereby undermining their ability to tender, on fair and equal terms, for such contracts. The Trust considers that there is potential for such harm to arise with reasonable proximity and, therefore, that the exemption under Section 43(2) of the Act is engaged.

The Trust acknowledges the public interest in publication of the information; specifically the interest in transparency with respect to expenditure on services, as a means of assisting the taxpayer in evaluating their value for money. However, there is a competing public interest in preserving fair market competition and the ability of public authorities to obtain value for money when sourcing services. In previous rulings the Information Commissioner has made clear that the Freedom of Information Act is not intended to distort fair market competition. In this case, the Trust therefore considers that the public interest in preserving fair competition outweighs the general public interest in transparency and is therefore applying the exemption under Section 43(2).

b) What is the length of your contract for this service?

Answer: The contract is for 4 years.

c) What is the total cost of your contract?

Answer: The total cost of the contract is approximately £620,000.

d) When does this contract expire?

Answer: The contract expires in July 2021.

3. Does your Trust run community services? (e.g.: District Nursing) (If no, simply state “No”).

Answer: The Trust does run community services.

a) If so, what is the name of your PAS/EPR supplier?

Answer: The PAS/ EPR supplier is TPP SystemOne.

a) How much per does this cost per annum?

Answer: We are unable to provide the information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

Section 43 (2) exempts from disclosure the following:

(2) Information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information.

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b) What is the length of your contract for this service?

Answer: 60 months (with 2 x 12 month extensions)

c) What is the total cost of your contract?

Answer: Answer: We are unable to provide the information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

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(2) Information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information.

Our supplier has made clear representation that pricing for the service is commercially sensitive information, the disclosure of which would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests, as it would provide alternative bidders with an understanding of their costs (which would not be reciprocated) with respect to similar contracts in the NHS, thereby undermining their ability to tender, on fair and equal terms, for such contracts. The Trust considers that there is potential for such harm to arise with reasonable proximity and, therefore, that the exemption under Section 43(2) of the Act is engaged.

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d) When does this contract expire?

Answer: July 2021

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer