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Request for Information Reference: 07.20.19

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

9 March 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 15 July 2020 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Firstly please accept my apologies for the time taken to respond. Your request was in relation to Radiology and Pathology and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Dear FOI Team

1. What is the main Radiology (RIS/CRIS) system that your Trust/Health Board runs?

The main Radiology (RIS/CRIS) system that the Trust/ Health Board run is CRIS.

2. Who is the supplier of this system?

The supplier of the system is Healthcare Software Systems.

3. What is the annual cost of the system?

The annual cost of the system is between £48,750.00 - £81,250.00 approximately. We are unable to provide the specific cost 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).

4. How long is the contract for the system, and when does it expire?

This is a 2 year contract and it expires on 14 April 2021.

5. What is the overall lifetime cost of the system?

The overall lifetime cost of the system is between £600,000.00 - £1,000,000.00 approximately to date. We are unable to provide the specific cost as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

For the specific exemption from disclosure details for Section 43 (2) please see the answer to question 3.

6. What is the main Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) system that your Trust/Health Board runs?

The main Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) system that the Trust runs is Centricity PACS.

7. Who is the supplier of this system?

The supplier of the system is GE.

8. What is the annual cost of the system?

The annual cost of the system is between £280,000.00 - £420,000.00 approximately. We are unable to provide the specific cost as requested on the grounds that this

information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

For the specific exemption from disclosure details for Section 43 (2) please see the answer to question 3.

9. How long is the contract for the system, and when does it expire?

This contract is for 10 years and it expires in September 2025.

10. What is the overall lifetime cost of the system?

The overall lifetime cost of the system is between £1,400,000.00 - £2,100,000.00 approximately to date. We are unable to provide the specific cost as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

For the specific exemption from disclosure details for Section 43 (2) please see the answer to question 3.

11. What is the main Pathology (LIMS) system that your Trust/Health Board runs?

The main Pathology system that the Trust runs is Win path.

12. Who is the supplier of this system?

The supplier of the system is Clinisys.

13. What is the annual cost of the system?

The annual cost of the system is between £184,000.00 - £276,000.00 approximately. We are unable to provide the specific cost as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

For the specific exemption from disclosure details for Section 43 (2) please see the answer to question 3.

14. How long is the contract for the system, and when does it expire?

This contract is for 7 years and it expires on 30 March 2021

15. What is the overall lifetime cost of the system?

The overall lifetime cost of the system is between £2,000,000.00 - £3,000,000.00 approximately to date. We are unable to provide the specific cost as requested on the

grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

For the specific exemption from disclosure details for Section 43 (2) please see the answer to question 3.

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 on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested I am sorry that I have not been able to provide all of the information you requested, however I hope that my explanation as to why this is not possible has been satisfactory. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer