

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 08.21.43

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

10th September 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 17th August 2021 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.

Your request was in relation to gamma cameras and SPECT-CT systems and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Make and model of all gamma cameras and SPECT-CT systems that are installed in your Nuclear Medicine, Radiology or Medical Physics

Department within all your Trust's locations

Darlington Memorial Hospital, Medical Physics – Siemens ecam
University Hospital of North Durham, Medical Physics – Siemens Symbia s

Both are dual headed gamma cameras, there are no SPECT-CT in the Trust.

2. Date of purchase of above systems and expected replacement dates

The Siemens ecam was installed in 2004 and is due to be replaced in the next couple of months, work starts on 6th September 2021.

The Siemens Symbia was installed in March 2007, it will move onto the replacement process immediately following DMH work and this is likely to be January 2022.

3. Price paid for all above systems that have been purchased within the within the last 2 years

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 systems are 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. Names of Consultants, Physicists and Technologists responsible for above systems

The individuals responsible for the above systems are:

Consultant Radiologist
Consultant Physicist
Principal Clinical Technologist

All contactable via cdda-tr.medphysadmin@nhs.net

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. 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

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator