

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: 09.21.39

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

Email only

18th October 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 21st September 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 Systems and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

See below a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

- 1. What ERP system does your organisation currently use (e.g. SAP / Oracle / Sage)?**

None

- 2. What bacs software do you use (e.g Bottomline PTX / Finastra / PayGate)?**

Allpay Bureau

- 3. Do you use a NHS Shared Service Provider?**

No

- 4. Which NHS Shared Service Provider do you use?**

Not applicable

- 5. How long is your current bacs/Shared Service solution contract for, when did it start and when is it due to expire (please include in addition any extensions viable in the contract)?**

The current contract expired on 30/04/2021

6. When the current bacs/Shared Service software contract is due to finish would you (if not already) consider using another solution?

Currently out to tender

7. What is the value of the bacs/Shared Service software contract?

The Trust 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.

As the tender process has commenced it could be likely to prejudice bidders that have not placed their bid, as it would provide alternative bidders with an understanding of their costs. 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).

8. Are you undergoing/planning a financial transformation project? (e.g. New ERP/Bacs system)

No

9. What is your annual revenue?

£595.605m as per 20/21 Published annual accounts.

10. With whom does the organisation hold its primary bank account?

Natwest

11. What payments types does the organisation use? (e.g Bacs (Direct Credit), Direct Debit, Faster Payments, etc.).

BACS, Direct Debit, CHAPS, Cheques

12. What is the number of employees in the organisation?

6,927 Trust employees 6089 FTE (Full Time Equivalent)

13. Who is the person responsible for the ERP system - please provide full name, title and contact information (if possible)

Not applicable

14. Who is the person responsible for the Bacs software system - please provide full name, title and contact information (if possible)

North East Patches

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