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Darlington Memorial Hospital
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Request for Information Reference: 09.22.07

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

Email only

28th September 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 2nd September 2022 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 Tagging Systems and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Please note that the answers to baby tagging in maternity and RFID staff and/or patient location and security are for Darlington Memorial Hospital only. The Trust has a contract in place with a PFI including requirements for security. The PFI contractor; has in turn subcontracted some services to other providers. The Trust has no direct involvement in this contract though it does have an assurance process in place with the PFI contractor to ensure that key performance indicators are met. As such the Trust does not hold the information requested and the PFI providers have not provided the information. We would advise you in line with Section 16 of the FOI Act (Duty to provide advice and guidance) to contact the Trust's PFI providers directly with your request.

University Hospital North Durham: Consort
Chester-Le-Street Hospital: Robertson's
Bishop Auckland Hospital: Criterion

For each system identified in a column please complete the following questions:	Electronic stock management	Baby tagging in Maternity	Patient location system	RFID staff and/or patient location and security	Patient flow monitoring	Tagged asset management system (for monitoring use and location of medical equipment and devices and other assets)
What system does the Trust use?	NHS Supply Chains – eDC Gold	XTag Patient Security Systems	The Trust uses Nervecentre to locate patients in beds.	Salto Door Access	Nervecentre – currently changing to EPR	The Trust does not have a system
Which departments is the system rolled out to? E.g. stores, theatres, ED, wards (how many), outpatients (how many)	Theatres	Maternity at Darlington Memorial Hospital	See patient flow column	Various locations within Darlington Memorial Hospital	In DMH and UNND operation centres plus individual laptops	Not applicable
When did the Trust go-live or start using the system?	February 2020	Unknown	See patient flow column	June 2019	2012	Not applicable
When does the current contract for the system expire?	No expiry date as the system is free to use for NHS Trusts	July 2023	See patient flow column	Rolling one year maintenance agreement	EPR system currently being implemented to replace Nervecentre	Not applicable
Who is responsible for managing the current system contract? Please provide email address.	Dave Hindson, Head of Information and Operations d.hindson@nhs.net	Geoff Sweeney, Health, Safety & Security Manager. Geoff.sweeney@nhs.net	See patient flow column	Geoff Sweeney, Health, Safety & Security Manager. Geoff.sweeney@nhs.net	Lisa Ward and Paul McGee paulmcgee@nhs.net lisa.ward13@nhs.net	Not applicable
What is the annual cost of the system contract?	No Cost	Commercially sensitive, see explanation below	See patient flow column	Commercially sensitive, see explanation below	Commercially sensitive, see explanation below	Not applicable

As indicated in the table, 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.

Our supplier has made clear representation that annual cost of the system contract 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).

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