



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Wigan

WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/10313

Date Received: 21st November 2024

Response Due: 27th December 2024

Date: 27th December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 21st November 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Please could you provide the following details:

1. Name of any current supplier/provider of Tele-Radiology or Radiology Reporting Services within the Trust

Medica.

Vital Rad.

4Ways.

2. The amount of reports performed by these service/solution over the last year

Medica = 14,440.

Vital Rad = 317.

4Ways = 2,481.

3. The cost associated with using the current supplier/provider for radiology reports, preferably broken down by cost per report or as an annual figure

This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please see the below.

4. The start date and duration of the current contract for this service/solution

Medica = 31/12/2021 – 30/12/2024.

Vital Rad = 16/01/2024 – 15/01/2025.

4Ways = 14/01/2024 – 15/01/2027.

5. The scheduled end date of the current contract

Medica = 30/12/2024.

Vital Rad = 15/01/2025.

4Ways = 15/01/2027.

6. Whether there are any planned extensions or renewals for this contact, and if so, the length of any extension options

Medica = New award in progress for 5 years.

Vital Rad = No.

4Ways = No.

7. Any procurement framework that will be used to tender for this service upon contract expiry.

Medica = N/A as the framework may change in 5 year's time.

Vital Rad = NHS Supply Chain Framework (MECSS).

4Ways = N/A as the framework may change in 2027.

8. The name, position and contact details of the people responsible for the management of these service/solution within the Trust

Lee Unsworth, Directorate Manager, Radiology, Cancer Services and Pathology.

The Trust does not routinely give out email addresses and direct telephone numbers of staff members, as large numbers of unsolicited emails/telephone calls, could cause disruption by blocking email accounts/telephone lines thus preventing true work-related emails/calls from being delivered. However, any of the above staff can be contacted via main switchboard on 01942 244000.

Clarification: Please can you confirm whether "over the last year" refers to the last financial or calendar year?

Response: Calendar year would be preferable.

Section 43(2) – Commercial interests

Information regarding costs is been withheld under section 43(2) of the FOIA if its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

Section 43 of the FOIA is a qualified exemption and is subject to the Prejudice Test and the Public Interest Test.

Prejudice test

We confirm that we have carried out a full prejudice test and that, on the balance of probability, the Trust's interests would be prejudiced in the event of disclosure. Therefore, we confirm that the Prejudice Test is engaged.

Public interest test

We have also carried out the Public Interest Test to ascertain whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in withholding the requested information:

Public interest in disclosure of the information:

- We acknowledge that there is public interest in transparency around how the Trust engages with suppliers and procurement.

- We acknowledge that there is public interest in the Trust's finances.

Public interest in withholding of the information:

- **Protecting public finances** – As a public authority, the Trust must ensure that it obtains the best value for money. Disclosure of the information would be likely to affect the quality of future offers provided to the Trust. It is therefore firmly in the public interest not to disclose any information which would affect commercial offers made to the Trust, which in turn will affect the Trust's finances.
- **Ensuring fair competition** – Information provided to the Trust during the procurement process contains sensitive competition information. It is not in the public interest to disclose information which would affect free and fair competition.
- **Transparency** – We understand that there is public interest in how the Trust engages with suppliers. However, we consider that the information held by the Trust would not significantly further the public understanding of its relationship with these suppliers beyond what has already been disclosed in this response.
- **Reputation damage or loss of confidence** - It is firmly in the public interest that the Trust takes all steps to protect its reputation around information handling. It is not in the public interest to do anything which would jeopardise our ability to maintain strong working relationships with third parties.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Hazel Hendriksen
Divisional Director of Operations for Specialist Services

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111