

10 July 2024

Our Ref: RFI 58979

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to the Trust's ICT Contracts**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 12 June 2024.

A response to questions 1 & 2, 6 - 10 & 13 & 14 has been provided by the Planning, Performance & Informatics Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation to questions 3 - 5, 11 & 12 I would like to advise you that the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reasons:

The information requested in questions 3 - 5, 11 & 12 is exempt from release under Section 31 and Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

These are all qualified exemptions and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

- a) (Section 31) Leave the Trust patients, clients & staff more vulnerable to crime
- b) (Section 38) permits the withholding of information if there is a risk to Health and Safety of Individuals within the Trust. To withhold there must be a likelihood of endangerment to the physical or mental health of any individual

Section 31 – Law Enforcement Section

Section 31(1)(a) states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more vulnerable to crime. It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime

Section 38 – Health and safety

Section 38 states that as a security attack may lead to the placing of patient and client information into the public domain, the release of the requested information could potentially lead to harm for a number of patients (in a mental health context or may lead to physical harm)

The Trust believes there is a link between the risk endangerment for data subjects and the disclosure of the requested information. There would likely be a substantial detrimental effect on the physical or mental health of patients and clients, should the requested information be released

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 3 - 5, 11 & 12.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Officer

- **Server Hardware Maintenance- contracts relating to the support and maintenance of the organisation's physical servers.**
- **Virtualisation Maintenance/Support/ Licensing (VMware, Solaris, Unix, Linux, Windows Server)**
- **Storage Area Network Maintenance/Support (EMC, NetApp etc)**

For each of the types of contract described above, please can you provide me with the following data. If there is more than one contract please split the information for each separate supplier this includes annual spend

Q1. Contract Title: Please provide me with the contract title.

A1. The contract title is Server & SAN Maintenance.

Q2. Type of Contracts (ABOVE): Please can you provide me with one or more contract types the contract relates to: Server Hardware, Virtualisation, SAN (Storage Area Network)

A2. Server & SAN Maintenance – one Trust Contract

Virtualisation Maintenance/Support/ Licensing (VMware, Solaris, Unix, Linux, Windows Server) – this contract is held by Business Services Organisation (BSO). You can contact BSO via Foi.bso@hscni.net.

Q6. Annual Average Spend: Please provide me with the most recent annual spend for this contract?

A6. The average annual spend is approximately £338,000.

Q7. Contract Duration: (Please can you also include notes if the contract includes any contract Extension periods.)

A7. The contract is an annual contract.

Q8. Contract Expiry Date: Please can you provide me with the date of when the contract expires.

A8. The contract expiry date is 31 May 2025.

Q9. Contract Review Date: (An approximate date of when the organisation is planning to review this particular contract.)

A9. The contract review date is March 2025

Q10. Purchase of Servers: Could you please provide me with the month and year in which most/bulk of servers were purchased.

A10. Servers are purchased as and when required throughout the financial year as requirements arise and funding is available.

Q13. Brief Contract Description: I require a brief description of the service provided under this contract. Please do not just put maintenance. I need at least a sentence.

A13. The service provided under this contract is Care Support Plan for servers and SAN.

Q14. Contract Owner: (The person from within the organisation that is responsible for reviewing and renewing this particular contract. Please include their full name, job title, direct contact number and direct email address.)

A14. The contract owner is:

Darren Henderson,
Assistant Director of Technology & Telecoms
Darren.henderson@setrust.hscni.net,
(028) 9048 4511