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RE: Freedom of Information Request

12th August 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 5th January 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. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

In your request you asked:

I am requesting information on your Trust's usage of ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitors and associated software for analysis reporting. Specifically, could you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. **Does the Trust use ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitors? (Yes or No)**
Yes
 - i. **If "Yes" then which make and models are currently in use and how many of each are currently deployed?**
Spacelabs Pro – 40
 - ii. **If "No" then does the Trust intend to implement ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitoring in the near future? (Yes or No)**
N/A

2. **Does the Trust use software to read EDF reports?**
No
 - i. **If ""Yes"" then which vendor(s) are used?**

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3. Does the Trust use an external ECG Interpretation Provider.

No

i. If ""Yes"" then which vendor(s) are used?

4. How many ambulatory electrocardiogram ECG readings does the Trust perform each year?

Test	2023	2024	Grand Total
ECG	9,331	5,136	19,824
Self fit spider flash monitor	1,783	1,108	3,864
Self-fit 24hr ECG	1,476	371	2,924
Newark ECG	325	262	671
Self-fit 24hr ECG Newark	182	89	367
self-fit spiderflash Newark	156	109	360
24ECG	57	15	123
48hr ECG	11	0	20
Self-fit 48HR ECG	8	3	11
72hr ECG	2	1	3
Self-fit 48HR ECG Newark	0	1	1
Grand Total	13,331	7,095	28,168

5. What is the split of the ambulatory ECG reading volumes in question 5, by length of recording? (e.g. 24hr, 48h, 72h, 7-day, 14-day)

Please see table in Q4

6. In what environment are the ambulatory ECG hollers fitted? (e.g. secondary care, community diagnostic centre [CDC], primary care)

All hollers are self fit by the patient collected from the local hospital.

7. What is your preferred buying method for these devices? (e.g. Direct, Supply Chain, Other)

Direct

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8. How much did the Trust pay for its currently deployed ECG Holter devices and software (per device), and what costs are associated with maintenance, such as battery replacement, servicing etc?

Section 43 - Commercial interests

It is our opinion that the information sought in relation to costs is exempt from disclosure pursuant to section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). S43(2) relates to information that is exempt from disclosure that could have a detrimental effect on the commercial interests of "...any person." The Trust considers that at this time the commercial interests of the Trust, third parties and overall the NHS could be detrimentally impacted upon. Please see the public interest test below.

Public Interest Test

We recognise that the disclosure of the information sought in relation to the costs involved would provide transparency in the use of public funds by the Trust and the NHS in general. It would also assist the general populous with transparency in decision making by the Trust and their transactions with third parties.

Conversely to the factors demonstrated above in favour of disclosure, it is felt that the Trust, third party suppliers and overall the NHS could be disadvantaged should the information sought in relation to costs being made available. Suppliers compete with one another in a competitive environment and to provide the value of the costs involved may allow rival companies to undercut the Trust current suppliers, lead to loss of confidence by suppliers and customers and could cause significant harm and disadvantage to the Trust and suppliers.

The disclosure could also adversely impact on any on-going or future procurement processes for the reasons outlined above. Any disclosure by the Trust could also in future discourage the provision of commercially sensitive information necessary to respond properly to the Trusts Invitation To Tender, and would be likely to affect and undermine the Trusts bargaining position in any future procurement process or negotiations. Ultimately civil action could be taken against the Trust should information be disclosed that adversely affects the commercial interests of current and/or future suppliers.

As a result, it is in the Trust's opinion that this sufficiently demonstrates the prejudice which could be caused through disclosure.

Balance Test

It is important to bear in mind that any disclosure under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the public at large and not just to the applicant. It is recognised that there is a general public interest in the Trust being open and transparent. However, it is not believed that this public interest is served in disclosure for damage that would be caused as outlined above.

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Therefore, – the Trust considers that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as the public interest does not outweigh the prejudice as set out above. Further guidance can be accessed from the Information Commissioner's Office <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guidance-index/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/section-43-commercial-interests/>

9. Does the Trust have service contracts for the currently deployed ambulatory ECG devices. If so, how much is this per annum for the different brand of devices by vendor(s)?

Section 43 As per Q8

10. How many ambulatory ECG monitors did the Trust purchase in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 per make and model of Holter monitor?

40 Pros

11. What is the Trust's wait time for ambulatory ECG Holter Fittings and ECG reporting?

14 weeks Fitting 1week Analysis.

12. Is the Trust meeting their targets for ambulatory ECG recording volumes and patient waiting times? (Yes or No)

No

13. What are the Trusts biggest challenges for cardiology ECG ambulatory recordings?

Staffing

14. Is the Trust considering purchasing any new ambulatory ECG Holter monitors? For replacement of old devices, broken devices, or needing more equipment?

Yes

15. Who is the Trust's senior electrophysiologist or cardiology manager and what are their contact details? (Name, position, email, telephone)

Names, job titles and email addresses (other than that of our board of directors) constitute personal data.

Section 40(2) provides that personal data is exempt information if one of the conditions set out in section 40(3) is satisfied. In our view, disclosure of this information would breach the data protection principles contained in the General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018

In reaching this decision, we have particularly considered:

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- The reasonable expectations of the employees given their positions; Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust considered that none of the individuals would have a reasonable expectation that their personal data would be disclosed;
- The consequences of disclosure; and
- any legitimate public interest in disclosure.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore not subject to the public interest test

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood

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Outstanding Care,
Compassionate People,
Healthier Communities



Sherwood Forest Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

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a smoke-free site

Acting Chair Graham Ward
Acting Chief Executive David Selwyn