NHS
Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

On 23 February 2019, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that NHS trusts should have infrastructure in place to replace pagers (bleeps) by 30 September 2021, with complete phase out of pagers (bleeps) by 31 December 2021.
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-and-social-care-secretary-bans-pagers-from-the-nhs

Under the FOI Act, please provide the following information, with "pagers" used as a synonym for "bleeps":

1. As at 31 May 2021, how many pagers were in use in your Trust?
   Bleeps - 657
   Pagers - 112
   Total 769

2. For the financial year ending 31 March 2021, what is the total annualised cost of pagers (broken down by equipment rental, licences, low value equipment replacement, maintenance of infrastructure, depreciation on capital assets and any other costs)?

Pagers – Rental - ££5,290.68 Inc. vat

Bleeps –Maintenance of infrastructure – £32,385.36 + vat

3. What stage of procurement and implementation is your Trust currently at and what are the achieved and proposed times for the various steps (e.g. business case approved, tender issued, contract awarded, implementation started, test system is live/user acceptance testing, deployed system is live)?

Tender to be issued for emergency paging system. No date set

4. If a contract has been awarded, which pager replacement system has your Trust selected?

Tender to be issued for emergency paging system. No date set

5. What additional features does your proposed (or implemented) pager replacement system have, compared with previous capability? (E.g. integration with electronic patient record)

Until the tender responses are received the additional features are not yet known

6. How many *users* and how many *devices* will the pager replacement system have?

The number of users and devices to be included in the tender are not yet known

7. What is the estimated total annualised cost of the replacement system (broken down by equipment rental, licences, low value equipment replacement, maintenance of infrastructure, depreciation on capital assets and any other costs)?

The annualised cost of the replacement system will not be known until the tender responses are received

8. Will the trust retain some pagers for *emergency* communications or will emergency communications be handled by the pager replacement system? If some pagers are being retained, how many?

Tender to be issued for an emergency paging system.

9. If the pager replacement system fails, what will be used as a backup system? (E.g. do you have plans to use staff personal devices?)

Resilient measures to be included in replacement system

10. Is the Trust on course to phase out pagers for *non-emergency* communications by 31 December 2021? If not, by when?

Yes, subject to completion of tender exercise

11. Is there a benefits realisation plan or post-implementation monitoring plan in place?

TBC as part of the Tender follow up process

Many thanks for your help.