

Our Ref: 389/2023
AUGUST 2023

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

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen who is interested in understanding more about Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's software development practices and its approach to utilizing in-house software versus off-the-shelf solutions. As a taxpayer and supporter of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, I believe that transparency and accountability are crucial aspects of maintaining public trust.

I hereby would like to request access to the following information:

Detailed documentation or reports regarding Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's in-house software development projects, including but not limited to:

- a. Project names and descriptions
- b. Timeframes for development and implementation
- c. Budget allocations / expenditures / cost savings
- d. Key milestones and achievements
- e. Future plans and direction

Comparative analyses or assessments that evaluate the success, efficiency, and effectiveness of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's in-house software solutions in comparison to off-the-shelf software alternatives. Hopefully this should encompass:

- a. Performance metrics, such as system reliability, response times, and user satisfaction
- b. Cost-benefit analyses, considering factors such as initial investment, maintenance, and long-term scalability
- c. Feedback from end-users and stakeholders
- d. Any other relevant measures used to gauge the success of the software solutions

Any policies, guidelines, or criteria that Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust follows when determining whether to develop in-house software or acquire off-the-shelf solutions for specific projects.

I understand that certain details of the information requested might be sensitive or proprietary. If necessary, I am willing to discuss redaction or exclusion of specific confidential information to ensure compliance with any applicable legal or contractual obligations.

Response

The vast majority of the work undertaken by the development team comes under the headings of business as usual (BAU), administrative fulfilment of internal and external requirements and support for trust wide projects managed outside of the team. The projects listed here are the major units of work undertaken by the team –

Projects

1) Data Warehouse Databases

Internal databases to enable the administrative, BAU and external requirements.

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- b) Organic development since 2010 and ongoing enhancements since and into the future
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) No data identified
- e) No specific plans other than continual enhancement as business needs arise

Assessment

- a. Performance : 99%+ reliability. No other data
- b. No data identified
- c. The DW has been well received across all areas of the trust
- d. Fulfils business needs

2) Pseudonymisation (PSN)

A system to provide anonymised alternatives to Patient Identifiable Data (PID)

- b) Developed 2010 with minimal maintenance since
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) No data identified
- e) National requirement

Assessment

- a. Performance : 99%+ reliability. No other data
- b. No suitable commercial product identified
- c. Satisfies the relevant assertions in the DSPT and the business need to protect patient PID
- d. Fulfils business needs

3) Commissioning Data Sets (CDS)

A system to send activity data to NHS England

- b) Developed 2011, upgraded 2016, replacement being developed 2023
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) No data identified
- e) National requirement

Assessment

- a. Performance : 99%+ reliability. No other data
- b. Supplier PAS solution evaluated, but it wasn't suitable
- c. Fulfils business needs
- d. Fulfils business needs

4) Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS)

A system send emergency care data to NHS England

- b) Developed 2017, due for upgrade 2023/24
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) No data identified
- e) National requirement

Assessment

- a. Performance : 99%+ reliability. No other data
- b. Supplier PAS solution evaluated, not suitable
- c. Fulfils business needs
- d. Fulfils business needs

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5) Referral to Treatment (RTT) and Patient Tracking List (PTL)

A system for the tracking of patient pathways

- b) Developed 2012, due to be superseded by Trust PPMS project
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) No data identified
- e) To be superseded by PPMS

Assessment

- a. Performance : 99%+ reliability. No other data
- b. No suitable commercial product identified
- c. Fulfils business needs
- d. Fulfils business needs

6) Simple PTL

A system for the management of patient pathways

- b) Developed 2022, abandoned and due to be superseded by Trust PPMS project
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) Was not completed
- e) To be superseded by PPMS

Assessment

- a. N/A
- b. No suitable commercial product identified
- c. N/A
- d. To be superseded by PPMS

7) Contract Allocation Module (CAM)

A system to determine the contract that activity comes under

- b) Developed 2015, continually maintained every financial year
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) Annual financial timetable met
- e) No specific plans other than continual enhancement as business needs arise

Assessment

- a. Performance : 99%+ reliability. No other data
- b. Supplier PAS solution evaluated, not suitable
- c. Fulfils business needs
- d. Fulfils business needs

8) Payment By Results (PBR)

A system to collate clinical data and generate financial tariff codes

- b) Developed 2010, continually maintained every financial year
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) Annual financial timetable met
- e) No specific plans other than continual enhancement as business needs arise

Assessment

- a. Performance : 99%+ reliability. No other data
- b. Supplier PAS solution evaluated, not suitable
- c. Fulfils business needs
- d. Fulfils business needs

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9) Clinical Portal

A data consolidator to show patient information from disparate sources in on system

- b) Developed 2016, continually enhanced and maintained
- c) No specific budget or funding, carried out by substantive staff
- d) Continual delivery as directed by Clinical Portal Group
- e) No specific plans other than continual enhancement as business needs arise

Assessment

- a. Performance : 99%+ reliability. No other data
- b. No suitable commercial product identified
- c. There has been very positive feedback from Clinicians across the trust
- d. Fulfils business needs

Small Projects

In addition to the larger projects identified above various small projects are carried out, these are listed in the attached document. There is no detailed project documentation for these small software developments.