

Our Ref: 102
February 2024

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to know if your Trust has commissioned a virtual wards system? **NO**

If they *have not*:

1. Is the Trust considering a pilot scheme to commission a virtual wards system? **Perhaps in the future with RDaSH**
2. How would the Trust procure using a tender portal? If so, which portal/s? **Not sure at this present time**
3. Who are the virtual wards lead/s at the Trust? **Mandy Tyrrell DBTH. Debbie Sadler RDaSH**

If they *have*, please provide me with the following information:

Staffing and Resources:

1. How many clinicians are typically assigned to a virtual ward?
2. What are the usual working hours and days per week for staff in a virtual ward?
3. What are the challenges and potential solutions related to staffing virtual wards, including the implications for the broader NHS workforce?

Training and Support:

1. What kind of training is provided to staff working in virtual wards?
2. Are there any guaranteed support or resources available for virtual ward staff, especially in the context of potential staff shortages or the need to borrow from other departments?

Delivery Process and Quality of Care:

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1. What measures are in place to ensure the quality of care provided by virtual wards?
2. What are the challenges and opportunities in implementing virtual wards, and what potential solutions have been identified to improve their efficiency and effectiveness?

Patient Care and Impact:

1. How is patient care managed and monitored within virtual wards?
2. What are the implications of virtual wards on the demand for traditional hospital services and the overall healthcare system?

Vendor:

1. How did you select the vendor that provides your virtual wards system?
2. What is the vendor's name?
3. When is the vendor's current contract period due to expire?