

## Freedom of Information Act Request

Please treat the following as a request under the Freedom of Information process.

I am completing a project looking at the size of NHS trusts with the region. Please could you provide me with the following information if held.

1. Please can you confirm if there are any plans for new bedspaces to be created within your trust in the next five years? This can be either proposed at a discussion point or a more formal stage of the decision process. I would like to capture new treatment areas or areas that would offer both day or overnight bed spaces. If so, please could you record the proposed site and an estimated number of additional beds to be added per year. Any example response would be as follows

2025 - example general hospital 20 bed

2026 - example wing 45 beds

2027 - example new site 30 beds

2. Please can you confirm if there are any proposed new theatres planned to be created within your trust in the next five years. Please use the example format highlighted in Q1.
3. Please can you confirm if any of your current bed spaces or theatres are planned to be moved into a new building or area in the next 5 years. Please use the example format highlighted in Q1
4. If questions 1-3 have highlighted a response that confirms new facilities, please could you confirm which organisation has been authorised to lead on the work if the project has reached the stage of awarding.

After careful consideration, we have determined that the information you requested is exempt from disclosure under the following provisions of FOIA:

### Section 22 - Information Intended for Future Publication

The information you requested relates to future plans, strategic initiatives, and development proposals for Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital, which are currently under internal review and are intended for future publication. Any expansion plans are still in the early stages of planning and are not yet finalised. As such, we are withholding this information to prevent premature disclosure that could mislead stakeholders or hinder the decision-making

## Section 36 - Prejudice to Effective Conduct of Public Affairs

Disclosure of the requested information would be likely to prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs, as it relates to strategic discussions and considerations regarding the expansion, new theatres or bed spaces of the hospital. Publicly disclosing incomplete or preliminary plans at this stage could compromise the decision-making process, interfere with the management of the hospital's development, and negatively impact negotiations with contractors, local authorities, or other key stakeholders.

## Section 43 - Commercial Interests

The information requested in question 4 includes commercially sensitive data that, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the NHS Trust or third parties involved in the planning and procurement process for the hospital's expansion. Public disclosure of this information at this stage could undermine competitive bidding, distort negotiations, or disadvantage contractors, potentially leading to financial loss or harm to commercial interests.

### Public Interest Test:

Although Section 43 is a qualified exemption and requires a public interest test, we have conducted this test and concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. While we recognize the importance of transparency, in this case, the need to protect sensitive commercial information is paramount. We have carefully considered your request under the provisions of the FOIA, and we believe that the exemptions listed above are applicable in this case. If you would like to discuss this matter further, or if you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Review and Appeals:

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response and should be addressed to [d.wraith@nhs.net](mailto:d.wraith@nhs.net)

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Our Ref: 709

October 2024

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

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