

## **Freedom of Information Act Request**

**Dear Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,**

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information:**

**1. A list of all external suppliers, contractors, or partner organisations who currently fall within the remit of the NHS Data Security & Protection Toolkit (DSPT) for your organisation.**

**This includes any supplier that handles patient data, accesses NHS systems, or provides digital, software, cloud, data-processing, or cyber-security services requiring DSPT compliance.**

**2. A list of any new, incoming, or planned suppliers (contracted or due to go live within the next 12 months) who will fall within the DSPT remit for the same reasons.**

**3. For each supplier identified in Q1 or Q2, please confirm (if recorded):**

- Whether they are required to maintain a “Standards Met” DSPT submission**
- The date you last checked or verified their DSPT status (or expected verification date for new suppliers)**

**4. Does your organisation maintain an internal register or log of DSPT-relevant suppliers (including planned or onboarding suppliers)?**

- If yes, please provide the relevant extract.**
- If no, please confirm that no such register exists.**

**If you require clarification on any point, I will be happy to refine the request.**

Response,

Please note that all FOI responses issued by the Trust are published on our public disclosure log. This means that any information released under the FOI Act becomes available not just to the requester, but to anyone who wishes to view it. When considering exemptions, we must therefore assess the impact of making the information publicly accessible, not just the risk of sharing it with an individual requester.

### **Section 31 – Law Enforcement / Security (Applied)**

The Trust is refusing this request under Section 31(1)(a) (prevention or detection of crime) and Section 31(1)(g) (exercise of functions relating to the protection of systems and persons), because disclosing detailed information about suppliers who access Trust systems, infrastructure, patient

data or security-critical services would be likely to prejudice the security of NHS systems and increase cyber-security risks.

Publishing a list of DSPT-relevant suppliers—including those providing cloud services, digital platforms, data processing, cyber security services, or systems integration—would create a publicly accessible map of third-party entry points into Trust networks. This information could be exploited by hostile actors to identify:

- Supply-chain routes for cyber-attack
- Potential vulnerabilities in connected third-party systems
- Specific technologies used by the Trust that are not otherwise publicly disclosed
- Planned or incoming suppliers not yet fully onboarded or secured

Such disclosure would materially increase the cyber-risk to patient data and Trust systems.

### **Section 43 – Commercial Interests (Applied)**

Some of the requested information relates to commercial relationships, contract status, upcoming procurements, or suppliers' DSPT compliance obligations. Disclosing this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the Trust and the suppliers, and is therefore exempt under Section 43(2).

### **Public Interest Test**

While there is public interest in transparency around NHS cyber security and supply-chain governance, this must be balanced against the significant public interest in:

- Maintaining the security of NHS IT systems
- Preventing cyber-attacks
- Protecting the personal data of patients and staff
- Ensuring continuity and safety of clinical services
- Preserving fair competition and commercial confidentiality

Given that all responses are made publicly available, disclosure would present a meaningful risk to national cyber security and operational resilience. The public interest therefore favours withholding the information.

### **Section 1 – Information Not Held (Applied in Part)**

For elements of your request relating to specific DSPT verification dates and internal registers, we can confirm that the Trust does not maintain a single consolidated register of DSPT-relevant suppliers. Information is held across several systems (procurement, contract management, cyber security processes), but not in a single extractable form. Creating a new dataset would fall outside the scope of FOIA.

If you are not satisfied 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 from the date of this response, and should be addressed to [d.wraith@nhs.net](mailto:d.wraith@nhs.net).

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Our Ref: 739  
December 2025

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>