

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information for each hospital site within your trust

1. Regarding your Holter monitor devices:

- What is the approximate cost per Holter monitor and associated service or maintenance fees?

The Trust is withholding the requested pricing/spend information under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (commercial interests).

The information requested relates to commercially sensitive pricing for specialist equipment and/or software. Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the Trust and the supplier by revealing current pricing structures and price points, which could be used by competitors to undercut bids or influence pricing in future procurement activity. In a specialist market, disclosure of unit costs and associated fees can also enable pricing to be reverse-engineered and compared across customers.

The Trust has considered representations from the supplier regarding the commercial sensitivity of this information; however, the decision to apply Section 43(2) is the Trust's own assessment.

As Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, the Trust has considered the public interest test:

- **Factors in favour of disclosure:** promoting openness and transparency about the use of public funds.
- **Factors in favour of maintaining the exemption:** protecting the Trust's ability to secure best value and maintain effective competition in future procurement/contracting, and avoiding the release of pricing information which could be used to the detriment of the Trust and the supplier.

On balance, the Trust considers that the public interest favours maintaining the exemption and withholding the pricing/spend information.

- How much do you pay for analysis software per license?

The Trust is withholding this information under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (commercial interests), as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the Trust's and the supplier's commercial interests by revealing sensitive pricing information as above

- Approximately how many tests do you perform per year using these monitors? **7300**
- What is the current waiting time (in weeks) for Holter monitor fitting? **4 weeks**
- Do you currently experience a backlog in analysis? If so, how many tests are pending? **No**

2. Regarding outsourced Holter monitoring services:

- Do you use outsourced analysis services, either with single-use disposable Holter monitors (e.g., iRhythm Zio) or reusable devices (e.g., ECG on Demand, Express Diagnostics)? Which company(ies) and products do you use? **No**
- What is the cost per Holter monitor or test under these outsourced services? **NA**
- What is the average duration of each test? **NA**
- How many tests do you carry out annually through outsourced providers? **NA**
- Are these services under a formal contract? If yes, when is the contract due to expire? **NA**

3. Clinical service scope and strategic planning:

- Is the information above specific to cardiology services, stroke services, or both? **Both**
- Has the clinic considered a direct to patient home service? **No**
- Is your Trust considering purchasing new ambulatory ECG Holter monitors, either to replace older or damaged devices or to increase capacity? **No**

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- What are the main challenges your Trust faces regarding ambulatory ECG Holter recordings?
Longer term monitoring capacity.

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.

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
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

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