

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1) Do you have an active language service (Interpreting) contract? What is the value of this contract?

Yes. The Trust holds an active contract for language (interpreting) services.

However, the contract value is exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the supplier and the Trust.

Releasing the financial details could allow competitors to gain insight into the supplier's pricing structure, terms, and commercial approach, which could undermine their ability to compete fairly in future tenders. It could also disadvantage the Trust in future negotiations by reducing its ability to secure competitive pricing and best value for money.

Public Interest Test

The Trust has carefully considered the balance of public interest in relation to this exemption. Factors in favour of disclosure:

Promotes transparency and accountability in public sector spending.

Increases public understanding of how the Trust manages procurement and allocates resources.

Factors against disclosure:

Disclosure of commercially sensitive pricing would undermine the supplier's position in future tenders, distorting fair competition.

It could adversely affect the Trust's ability to obtain competitive bids in future procurement exercises, leading to higher costs to the public purse.

It may damage the Trust's commercial relationships with suppliers, who provide services on the understanding that detailed financial information will not be made publicly available.

On balance, the Trust considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that of disclosure.

2) Are services accessed via a framework or independent of a framework? If a framework, what framework(s) is it?

Via a framework. Language Services (NOE.0583)

3) When does the existing contract(s) expire? When is the next tender or procurement review expected?

Current End Date 31/05/2028 Maximum Extension Date 31/05/2030 Expected Procurement review 01/10/2027

4) Who are your current suppliers by service type i.e. BSL, telephone, spoken, video?

Language Empire Limited

5) Do you procure spoken and non-spoken (BSL) interpreting together?

Yes

6) Do you consider non-spoken interpreting a specialist service? If yes and you do not procure this service separately. Why do you not procure this service separately?

Yes Current Contract is a managed service for all services

7) What is your organisation's language services procurement policy. i.e. do you undertake pre-market engagement, do you run a competitive tender process or direct award?

Competitive Tender process

8) Are language services on the procurement plan in 2026, if so, can you please give an indicative timeline?

No

9) Who is the senior responsible person for Language Services in your organisation? Please provide contact details and job title.

Kirsty Clarke Associate Chief Nurse - Safe Staffing kirsty.clarke4@nhs.net

10) Can you please provide historical use for each service for the previous year. Please highlight if you are referring to number of assignments or hour/minutes this response.

- a. On-site spoken
- b. Onsite non-spoken (for eg. BSL)
- c. telephone interpreting

- d. Video spoken
- e. Video non-spoken

We are unable to provide the information requested for Question 11. The Trust has since changed interpreting service provider, and no historical usage data from the previous provider is available to us. Accordingly, under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we can confirm that the Trust does not hold the information you have requested.

11) How many bidders submitted a completed tender response for the current contract? 8

12) Name, addresses and contact point(s) for your Procurement Department responsible for awarding contracts.

Richard Somerset, Procurement Department, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Armthorpe Road, Doncaster DN2 5LT

13) Please share the link for the last Tender Notice and the contract value for the last and current tender.

The Trust does not hold a local record or direct publication link for the last tender notice. The contract value is exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the supplier and the Trust. Releasing the detailed financial value could enable competitors to gain an unfair advantage in any future tendering process, reducing the Trust's ability to secure best value for money. Public Interest Test (Section 43(2))

Factors in favour of disclosure:

Promotes transparency in public spending.

Increases public understanding of NHS procurement processes.

Factors against disclosure:

Disclosure would undermine fair competition by revealing commercially sensitive pricing information.

It would prejudice the supplier's position in future tenders and weaken the Trust's bargaining position in future procurements.

It could reduce the Trust's ability to obtain competitive bids, impacting public funds.

On balance, the Trust considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that of disclosure.

Our Ref:217

March 2026

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/>