

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 21-108

24 March 2021

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

1. Who is the current provider for the trusts network infrastructure? - When considering network infrastructure this is specifically the switching hardware and wireless access points that may be deployed throughout the trust's estate and associated cabling etc.

2. What manufacturer does the trust use for the above-mentioned network infrastructure?

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust has a procurement and tendering process in place which governs the procurement of services and is managed via the Bristol and Weston Purchasing Consortium. For further information on the services they provide, please visit the BWPC website <https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/bristol-weston-nhs-purchasing-consortium/contact-bwpc>

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust ensure that competitive tenders are invited for the supply of goods, materials and manufactured articles and for the rendering of services including all forms of management consultancy services and for the design, construction and maintenance of building and engineering works.

For information on contracts that have or are currently being tendered, and for all current opportunities, please visit our e-tendering portal CTM <https://uk.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=UK>

it is free to suppliers and once registered you will be able to respond for requests for quotations and tenders.

For further information or for details of our spend over £25,000, please visit our 'about us' pages of our Trust website <https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/p/about-us/what-we-spend-and-how-we-spend-it>.

If, after this you have further questions please resubmit a detailed Freedom of Information request and we will where allowable, obtain the information for you.

3. What are the approximate number of network switches deployed throughout the trust?

700

4. What are the approximate number of wireless access points deployed throughout the trust?

2000

5. What is the latest Wi-Fi version the trust support i.e. 802.11 b/g/n/ac/ax

802.11ac

6. What vendor currently provides the trusts cyber security system?

University Hospital Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust can neither confirm nor deny whether information is held under section 31(3) of the FOIA. The full wording of section 31 can be found here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/31>

S31(3) of the FOIA allows a public authority to neither confirm nor deny whether it holds information where such confirmation would be likely to prejudice any of the matters outlined in section 31(1). This includes information the disclosure of which would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

As section 31(3) is a qualified exemption, it is subject to a public interest test for determining whether the public interest lies in confirming whether the information is held or not.

Factors in favour of confirming or denying the information is held

The Trust considers that to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held would indicate the prevalence of cyber- attacks against the Trust's digital infrastructure and would reveal details about the Trust's information security systems. The Trust recognises that answering the request would promote openness and transparency with regards to the Trust's digital security.

Factors in favour of neither confirming nor denying the information is held

Cyber-attacks, which may amount to criminal offences for example under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 or the Data Protection Act 2018, are rated as a Tier 1 threat by the UK Government. The Trust like any organisation may be subject to cyber-attacks and, since it holds large amounts of sensitive, personal and confidential information, maintaining the security of this information is extremely important.

In this context, the Trust considers that confirming or denying whether the requested information is held would provide information about the Trust's information security systems and its resilience to cyber-attacks. There is a very strong public interest in preventing the Trust's information systems from being subject to cyber-attacks. Confirming or denying the type of information requested would be likely to prejudice the prevention of cybercrime, and

this is not in the public interest.

Balancing the public interest factors

The Trust has considered that if it were to confirm or deny whether it holds the requested information, it would enable potential cyber attackers to ascertain how and to what extent the Trust is able to detect and deal with digital security attacks. The Trust's position is that complying with the duty to confirm or deny whether the information is held would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, as the information would assist those who want to attack the Trust's digital systems. Disclosure of the information would assist a hacker in gaining valuable information as to the nature of the Trust's systems, defences and possible vulnerabilities. This information would enter the public domain and set a precedent for other similar requests which would, in principle, result in the Trust being a position where it would be more difficult to refuse information in similar requests. To confirm or deny whether the information is held is likely to enable hackers to obtain information in mosaic form combined with other information to enable hackers to gain greater insight than they would ordinarily have, which would facilitate the commissioning of crime such as hacking itself and also fraud. This would impact on the Trust's operations including its front line services. The prejudice in complying with section 1(1)(a) FOIA is real and significant as to confirm or deny would allow valuable insight into the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the Trust's digital systems

7. How often do the trust refresh the deployed network infrastructure?

Rolling

8. When do the existing contracts for the switching network and the wireless network?

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9. Does the trust currently have a SIEM (security information and event management) solution in place?

Yes

10. When do contracts expire for Firewalls and SIEM filtering?

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11. Does the trust have a fully defined IT strategy?

No

12. If the answer to question 10 is yes can a copy be provided?

Not applicable

13. Please provide a copy of the IT departments organisational chart including names, contact details and job titles. If not available, a list of the names and roles of those people that work in it.

Please see the attached document

14. Can the trust confirm if the IT department make the final decisions with regards to purchasing new solutions for the IT environment?

No

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Director of Corporate Governance
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust