

FOI REF: 24/236

17th April 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

Please provide the following details:

1) **What software do you use for your payroll, HR and finance solutions, how much annually do you spend on each, when does each contract expire?**

- **Payroll**

Name of System	ESR
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- **HR**

Name of System	Assure HR Case which is an RLDatix system
Contract Expiry Date	March 2025

Name of System	ESR
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Please note that ESR is a national solution which the Trust uses at no cost. For contract details please contact NHS England, details as follows:

Email: england.contactus@nhs.net

Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line of any FOI request.

- **Finance**

Name of Finance System	Integra
Contract Expiry Date	31 st March 2027

The information you have requested, in respect of spend, is exempt under section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information would originally have been provided in confidence. Information is exempt information if –

- (a) it was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and,
- (b) the disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to the spend as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

We have concluded that sharing commercials could disadvantage the supplier against their competitors and may leave the Trust open to a legal challenge.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

2) Do you manage your payroll in-house or do you outsource it if so, who do you outsource it to?

Outsourced to Sussex Health & Care Payroll Hub, run by NHS Shared Business Services (SBS).

3) How many people do you pay each month using your payroll solution?

8,807.

4) How many pensioners do you pay using your payroll solution?

We do not hold this information. NHS Pensioners are paid their NHS Pension by the NHS Business Service Authority (NHSBSA).

5) Do you use Microsoft power platform technologies such as Power Automate, Power Virtual Agents?

Power Automate used for Staff Changes and Leavers Forms.

6) What is the employee count in your organisation?

8703.

7) **Do you collaborate with other organisations in the delivery of HR & Payroll shared services? If so which organisation?**

Payroll NHS Shared Business Services (SBS).

8) **Do you work with any industry experts such as ATOS, KPMG, EY, Accenture etc?**

No.

9) **Who in your organisation is the head of service for HR and Payroll software or services and what is their role?**

HR

Penny Wright
HR Assistant Director - Workforce Systems Governance, Planning & Insight

Ruth Merrick
Workforce Systems Support & Governance Manager

Payroll

Lydia Crouch
Head of Financial Services

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net