

FOI REF: 24/371

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Section 17 Refusal Notice

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

1) Do you directly purchase Holter monitors which are reusable, which company/companies and products do you use (e.g. Spacelabs)?

Yes, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust purchases reusable Holter monitors. The Trust uses "Lifecard CF" by Spacelabs.

a) How much do you pay per Holter monitor and what are the service costs?

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request 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.

Sharing commercial information would disadvantage the incumbent supplier against their competitors. The information would provide competitors with the suppliers pricing, which would result in these suppliers obtaining a competitive advantage. This would distort the marketplace and result in the trust not obtaining best value.

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

b) How much do you pay for the analysis software per licence?

Section 43(2) applied, please see above.

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c) How many tests do you perform with these Holter monitors per annum?

3,700 in 2023/24.

d) Approximately how many devices do you purchase per annum?

The Trust monitors are only purchased when we establish a new service, therefore we do not buy on a yearly basis, but approximately 4 are purchased per annum to replace lost / stolen devices to maintain sufficient available stock level.

2) Do you purchase outsourced analysis Holter monitors, either single use disposable Holter monitors (e.g. iRhythm-Zio) and/or reusable devices (e.g. ECG on Demand, Express Diagnostics), which company/companies and products do you use?

The Trust uses ECG On-Demand. The product is: Bittium Faros 180L.

a) How much do you pay per Holter monitor/test?

Section 43(2) applied, please refer to question 1a.

b) What is the average test duration?

24 hours.

c) How many tests do you perform with these Holter monitors per annum?

250.

d) Are you under an official contract with this supplier? If so, until when?

The Trust has a contract for 250 devices, rather than a contract of specific length.

3) Do you have a current backlog of patients for Holter monitoring that falls outside of your KPI's?

No.

a) How many patients in total?

Not applicable.

b) How many weeks is the current wait time for fitting?

2 weeks.

c) Do you have a backlog for analysis? If so, how many?

None.

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4) Is the above information for cardiology or stroke (or both)?

Both.

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
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