



FOI REF: 24/772

22nd November 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

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:

The names of your outsourced teleradiology providers for:

1. Out of hours, emergency reporting (overnight reporting).

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

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 commercial interests of third parties. This is because release of the information at this time could be detrimental to their competitive position in the market.

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.

As the trust is currently in a pre-procurement process for the services mentioned, disclosure at this stage may prejudice that process.

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

2. Routine Elective Reporting.

Section 43(2) applied, please see above.

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3. Please provide the annual volumes for both a) 2022 b) 2023 sent to each provider, broken into the following:

- o Overnight Emergency
- o Routine Elective Reporting (MRI, CT)
- o Plain Film Reporting
- o Day time emergency reporting (1hr for example).
- o Split into each hospital within the Trust

Section 43(2) applied, please see above.

4. Start date, duration and end date of any contracts with tele-radiology providers?

- a) Was the contract procured via a framework (direct award), mini-tender, or ITT procurement process?

Section 43(2) applied, please see above.

5. Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?

We are unable to provide the staff name or contact details of staff as we consider this information to be exempt from release in accordance with section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act (Prohibition on disclosure) and would refer to the Privacy and Electronic Communications EC Directive Regulations 2003 which provide specific rules on electronic communication services, including marketing (by phone, fax, email or text) and keeping communications services secure. We will not provide any information that could result in the transmission of unsolicited communications which may place an unacceptable risk to our email network and could also have a detrimental impact on patient care and treatment.

The contact number for the Trust are accessible on the Trust website <http://www.esht.nhs.uk>.

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

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.

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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