

FOI REF: 24/802

5<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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## 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:

**1. Does your Trust use an Inventory Management System (IMS)?**

Yes.

**a. If 'Yes,' which company supplies this?**

lassets, e-Quip, EDC / EDC Gold, Health Edge SSD, Omnicell.

**b. If 'No, do you have plans to procure an IMS within the next three years?**

Not applicable.

**If the answer to Question 1 was yes, then:**

**2. Which company supplies the IMS?**

Idox Software Ltd (lassets) & EDC / EDC Gold(NHS)  
Health Edge Solutions (Health Edge SSD), Omnicell Ltd  
Integra (e-Quip) Ltd (e-Quip)

**3. When was this system implemented?**

lassets	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2015
EDC Gold / EDC	Unknown start date +-20 years
Health Edge SSD	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Omnicell	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2014

**4. When was the most recent upgrade or change?**

lassets	2024
Health Edge SSD	2023
Integra (e-Quip)	2023
Omnicell	2024

**5. Did you procure this system independently, through NHS Supply Chain, or through some other route (please specify)?**

lassets, Health Edge SSD, Omnicell (independently), EDC is a national NHS System. Integra (e-Quip) Ltd (direct purchase).

**6. Did the Trust use a different IMS prior to the current one? If so, please specify the previous system(s) and how long were they used for?**

No.

**7. What are the key differences between the current IMS and any previous IMS in terms of functionality, ease of use, and integration with other Trust systems?**

Not applicable.

**8. Does the current system manage the following:**

a. **High-cost implants (e.g., cardiac pacemakers, hip and knee replacements, spinal fusion devices)**

Yes.

b. **Consumables (e.g., scalpels, blood vials, swabs)**

Yes.

c. **Human tissue (e.g., corneal tissue, skin grafts, bone grafts, heart valves)**

No.

d. **Other (please specify)**

Drugs, yes.

**9. Does your IMS integrate with other Trust software (e.g., EPR, procurement platforms)? If yes, which?**

lassets integrates with e-Quip.

Health Edge SSD – links to Belimed washer software and Wassenburg Endo washers software – process manager.

Omnicell – Pharmacy Stock management system, PAS system.

**10. What primary benefits has the Trust observed with the current IMS (e.g., cost savings, efficiency gains, regulatory compliance)?**

lassets – enables asset tracking / e-Quip essential for full equipment management lifecycle, maintenance scheduling and equipment replacement programmes.

Health Edge SSD - effective management and tracking of instrumentation, assurance that processes are being followed correctly and meet regulatory compliance.

Omnicell – Improved stock control and medicines waste, reduced nursing and pharmacy time dealing with stock.

**11. Do you believe that you are receiving/expect to have received by the contract end good return on investment from this IMS?**

lassets and e-quip are essential tools for equipment management and offer VFM.

Health Edge SSD – yes as this system helps us to reduce instrument loss or misplacement, automates manual processes, monitors sterilisation patterns electronically, allows support for patient safety as provides traceable sterilisation. Also we use the stock system and links to pricing.

Omnicell – Yes.

**12. What are the main challenges or limitations experienced with the system?**

lassets – limitations are simply down to trust passive infrastructure limitations.

e-Quip – highly flexible tool which is highly customisable by users.

Health Edge SSD – would like to have system in Theatres and Endo to complete full cycle for tracking.

Omnicell – inability to expand systems as required throughout Trust.

**13. Does the Trust have plans to upgrade or replace the IMS within the next three years?**

No.

**14. What new capabilities/improvements/features would be a priority in future IMS procurement (e.g., enhanced traceability, asset or human tissue tracking)?**

Assets / e-Quip – future development is to develop a 2 way real time asset location transfer between the 2 systems which is currently being worked on.

Health Edge SSD – Include all software updates and validation in contract cost over contract term. – to include RFID capability moving forward.

Omnicell – Advanced reporting capabilities, electronic Controlled Drug Registers and Emergency Cupboards, use of barcodes.

**15. Who is the best person within the Trust to speak to about IMS systems?**

Angela Alletson  
Head of Procurement  
[esht.procurement@nhs.net](mailto:esht.procurement@nhs.net)

**If the answer to Question 1 was no, then:**

**16. Do you have plans to procure an IMS within the next three years?**

Not applicable.

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](mailto: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](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)