



Date: 17 November 2021
Our reference: N/21/3392

Dear Requestor

RE: Freedom of Information Request

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

In the request you asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you answer the following questions and provide any requested details.

- Does your CCG/ICS/CSU currently procure clinical decision support (CDS) or primary care support - Tools, Software or Services?
 - o If yes, are they any of the following:
 - o Ardens / Ardens for EMIS / QMasters
 - o Primary Care IT / Primary Care Pathways
 - o DXS Point-of-Care / CompleteCare
 - o Insight Solutions
 - o Clinical effectiveness group
 - o Other - please specify

The CCG currently commission a decision support tool and suite of templates from Ardens Healthcare Informatics, this contract is specific to Mid Nottinghamshire as it was originally commissioned by the predecessor organisations of NHS Mansfield and Ashfield CCG and NHS Newark and Sherwood CCG. The contract runs until May 2022.

In South Nottinghamshire, clinical decision support (CDS) is provided by an inhouse system.

- What was the value for this procurement?
 - o Was this an OJEU/FTS process?
 - o Please detail the breakdown of the costs including CCG/CSU backfill for business change and project implementation costings.

The contract with Ardens Healthcare Informatics was an extension for 1 year.

I can confirm that we do hold the information relating to the value for this procurement. However, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG has considered this request and has decided to withhold this

requested information pursuant to the exemption in Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 43(2) relates to information that is exempt from disclosure that “would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)”.

The information requested relates to details of commercial arrangements the CCG has in place with independent providers.

On this basis, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG consider that, at this time, the commercial interests of the CCG, third parties and overall the NHS would or would likely be prejudiced.

Public Interest Test

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and, therefore, the CCG is required to apply the public interest test.

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG recognise that the disclosure of the information sought in relation to the value for this procurement, would promote accountability and transparency in the use of public funds by the CCG and by the NHS in general and also with decision making by the CCG and their transactions with third parties.

Conversely to the factors demonstrated above in favour of disclosure, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG and third party suppliers could be disadvantaged should the information be made available. Suppliers compete with one another in a competitive environment and to provide data to this level of detail would lead to loss of confidence by suppliers and customers and could cause significant harm to the CCG and suppliers.

The disclosure could also adversely impact on any on-going or future procurement processes for the reasons outlined above. Any disclosure by the CCG could, in future, discourage the provision of commercially sensitive information necessary to respond properly to the CCG’s Invitation To Tender, and would be likely to affect and undermine the CCG’s bargaining position in any future procurement process or negotiations. Ultimately, civil action could be taken against the CCG should information be disclosed that adversely affects the commercial interests of current and/or future suppliers.

As a result, it is our opinion that this sufficiently demonstrates the prejudice which could be caused through disclosure.

Balance Test

It is important to bear in mind that any disclosure under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the public at large and not just to the applicant. It is recognised that there is a general public interest in the CCG being open and transparent. However, it is not believed that this public interest is served in disclosure for damage that would be caused as outlined above.

Therefore, the CCG consider that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as the public interest does not outweigh the prejudice as set out above.

- Was this part of a funding exercise - if so please confirm details of the fund and its allocation.

No this was not part of a funding exercise.

- What was the date of the contract inception?

May 2021.

- What other companies were reviewed as part of the tender process? Please provide any evidence of the review and scoring against your nominated criteria.

Not applicable.

- Where was this tender presented to allow companies to apply?

Not applicable.

- What is the current renewal date of the contract?

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG do not intend to renew the contract but move to the in-house solution.

- Please provide any copies of business cases that outline the requirement for this company and subsequent benefits realisation documentation post implementation detailing their requirements were met.

Not applicable.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group*.

notts.foi@nhs.net

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the license conditions must be met.

You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead via notts.foi@nhs.net. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.