

Reference:	FOI.7531.21
Subject:	Digital health
Date of Request:	26 November 2021

Requested and response:

1. What is the name of your PAS supplier?

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that its Patient Administration System (PAS) supplier is Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW).

2. How much does this cost per annum?

The UHB confirms the cost per annum is £172,925.00

3. What is the length of your contract for this service?

The UHB confirms there is no contract for this service as it is a developed application for NHS Wales.

4. What is the total cost of your contract?

Not applicable.

5. When does this contract expire?

Not applicable.

6. What is the name of your EPR supplier? (If you do not have an EPR, simply state "None").

The UHB confirms its Electronic Patient Record (EPR) supplier is DHCW.

7. How much does this cost per annum?

The UHB confirms there is no cost to the UHB for the EPR.

8. What is the length of your contract for this service?

The UHB confirms there is no contract for this service as it is a developed application for NHS Wales.

9. What is the total cost of your contract?

Not applicable.

10. When does this contract expire?

Not applicable.

11. Do you run Community and mental health services?

If so...

What is the name of your PAS/EPR supplier for Mental Health?

The UHB confirms its PAS/EPR Mental Health supplier is Imosphere.

12. How much does this cost per annum?

The UHB confirms the cost per annum is £121,516.00.

13. What is the length of contact your contract for this service?

The UHB confirms the contract for Imosphere is a rolling agreement, renewable on an annual basis.

14. What is the total cost of your contract?

Not applicable. Rolling contract since 2006.

15. When does this contract expire?

The UHB confirms the Imosphere contract expires 31 January 2022.

16. What is the name of your PAS/EPR supplier for Community? (If the same as for Mental Health, simply state "Same").

The UHB confirms its PAS/EPR for the community is CareWorks.

17. How much does this cost per annum?

The UHB confirms that the annual cost is £84,513.00.

18. What is the length of contact your contract for this service?

The UHB confirms that the current contract duration is for five (5) years, with an optional two (2) year extension.

19. What is the total cost of your contract?

Section 43 - As the cost of the contract requested from the UHB relates to third parties, the UHB considers that exemption Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) applies, as answering would be Prejudicial to their Commercial Interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, disclosure of which would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, in this case the provider listed above. Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors
- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services. Private sector bodies engaging in commercial activities with the public sector must expect some information about those activities to be disclosed.

Against Disclosure: Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and cause substantial harm to the suppliers, as it would disclose their pricing and products/services provided to the UHB, and it would be likely that this would damage their ability to work within a highly competitive sector. The information being requested is likely to be used by their competitors to gain a competitive advantage.

Decision: - It has therefore been decided that releasing the information under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the suppliers' competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body, and that there is a public interest in ensuring that there is competition for public sector contracts.

The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the contract cost is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the company to which this information concerns.