

Reference:	FOI.16281.25
Subject:	IT contracts
Date of Request:	3 January 2025

Requested:

1. What current web filter is in place and when is this contract due to expire?
2. What current security awareness training is in place and when is this contract due to expire?
3. Can you please confirm what reseller the trust used to purchase their web filter and security awareness training technologies?

Response:

1. The UHB is unable to provide the information requested, as it has deemed that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). The UHB has also considered the “mosaic effect”; the harm which will or will be likely to arise from the release of this information, along with information already in the public domain.

Section 31(1)(a) of the FoIA provides that information which is not exempt by virtue of Section 30 (criminal investigations and proceedings) is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. In Guidance, the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) has advised that Section 31, amongst other things, prevents information being disclosed that would increase the risk of the law being broken. In addition, it can be claimed by any public authority.

The UHB is relying upon this exemption as it considers that releasing information about its current web filter, would in the present climate, make it more vulnerable to crime.

Section 31(3) of the FoIA provides that the duty to confirm or deny does not arise in relation to this information.

Section 31 of the Fola is subject to the public interest test.

In favour of disclosure: There is a legitimate public interest in transparency and accountability of the ways in which public bodies operate and manage their services and operational functions. Disclosure would demonstrate that the UHB takes its duties and responsibilities seriously. The UHB has a duty to maintain openness and transparency in all its activities, which will help to maintain public trust in the UHB.

Against disclosure: The UHB requires the ability to operate and manage services and operational functions. By releasing the requested information, the UHB would provide attackers with valuable information regarding the configuration of our systems and be vulnerable to this being used for crime, which potentially could compromise the security of both patient and staff information, whilst causing disruption to the flow of information through the UHB systems, impacting on patient care and safety. There is a clear public interest in protecting society and the UHB from the impact of crime. The UHB has given consideration to a previous cyber-attack within the NHS, details of which is already in the public domain.

Decision: The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the interest in disclosing. Disclosing the requested information regarding our current web

filter will provide attackers with valuable information regarding the configuration of our IT systems, that will enable targeted research to compromise the integrity and confidentiality of our systems containing public information, whilst causing disruption to the flow of information through the UHB systems, impacting on patient care and safety. Therefore, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. The UHB provide an All-Wales IT Security and Information Governance online training package. This is produced jointly by Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) and NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP). There is no end date.

The Executive Board undertake bi-annual Cyber Security Awareness Training.

3. The UHB procured the current web filter from Softcat PLC. The Cyber Security Awareness Training undertaken by the Executive Board was provided by Templar Executives. Course title: Cyber Security Training for Boards and Senior Executives.