

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.12728.23
<b>Subject:</b>	Junior doctor rotas and medics rostering
<b>Date of Request:</b>	23 September 2023

**Requested:**

1. Which software provider does the Trust use for junior doctor's rotas (e.g. DRS, RLDATIX, PatchWork etc)
2. What was the annual cost for the Trust's current junior doctors' rotas software in the last FY?
3. What is the contractual end date of your current junior doctors' rotas software?
4. Which software provider does the Trust use for medics rostering (e.g., Skills for Health, RLDATIX, PatchWork, HealthRota, RotaMap, Liaison, RotaGeek etc)
5. What was the annual cost for the Trust's current medics rostering software in the last FY?
6. What is the contractual end date of your current medics rostering software.

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that the software provider for junior doctor rotas is Allocate.
2. & 3. As this information is already within the public domain, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as the information is accessible by another means. The UHB has answered a similar Freedom of Information request FOI.2637.23 - Temporary staff management, which is available on our disclosure log:

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the UHB's disclosure log webpage:

[Disclosure Log - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/disclosure-log)

4. The UHB confirms that it uses medics rostering in its Anaesthetics Department in Carmarthenshire only; the software is CLWRota, provided by Rotamap Ltd.
5. The UHB considers that Section 43 applies to the third party costs for CLWRota, as answering would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) of the FoIA exempts information, if the disclosure of it would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person; in this case, the suppliers 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 supplier as it would disclose their pricing, 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.

However, the UHB sought the opinion of Rotamap Ltd for consideration as part of the public interest test, who consented to the disclosure of the costs and as such, these have not been considered as part of the Section 43 exemption.

Therefore, the UHB can confirm that the annual cost for CLWRota medics rostering was £14,698.59 for the financial year 2022/23.

6. The UHB confirms that the contract end date is 22 March 2024.