

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.16285.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Medical workforce systems
<b>Date of Request:</b>	6 January 2025

**Requested:**

1. Which software provider does the Trust use for junior doctors' rotas software
2. Which software provider does the Trust use for medics rostering software
3. Which software provider does the Trust use for direct engagement management of medical locums software
4. Which software provider does the Trust use for master vendor management software
5. What was the annual cost for the Trust's junior doctors rota software in the last FY
6. What was the annual cost for the Trust's medics rostering software in the last FY
7. What is the contractual end date of your current junior doctors rota software
8. What is the contractual end date of your current medics rostering software
9. What is the contractual end date of your current direct engagement software
10. What is the contractual end date of your current master vendor management software

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is applying an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as the costs requested for questions 5 and 6 relate to third parties, RL Datix and HealthRota, and would be prejudicial to commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any company.

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.

**Against Disclosure:** Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and may cause substantial harm to the provider, 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.

**Decision:** - The UHB has consulted with the third parties and has taken their comments into consideration. It has therefore been decided that releasing all of the information under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the provider's 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 annual costs for its junior and medics rostering software suppliers, RL Datix and Health Rota, is greater than the interest in disclosing it.

1. The UHB uses RL Datix for junior doctors' rotas.
2. The UHB uses RL Datix for medics rostering software. Additionally, the UHB uses CLWRota for its Anaesthetics department in Carmarthenshire and HealthRota for its Emergency Department in Glangwili General Hospital.
3. The UHB uses the Patchwork Healthcare Staffing software for Direct Engagement (DE) management of medical locums engaged via Medacs.
4. The UHB uses Patchwork Healthcare Staffing for the management of its Master Vendor (MV) providers.
5. Section 43 exemption applied.
6. Section 43 exemption applied to the costs for RL Datix and HealthRota. The UHB also sought the opinion of CLWRota for consideration as part of the public interest test, who consented to the disclosure of the costs and as such, these have not been included within the Section 43 exemption.

Therefore, the UHB can confirm that the annual cost for the CLWRota contract is £19,500.00 during the period 16 March 2024 to 14 March 2025. Please note, the CLWRota service charges per user and therefore, annual costs can vary.

7. The current contract for the UHB's junior doctors' rota software is due to expire on 30 June 2026.
8. The UHB provides, within the table below, the medical rostering software expiry dates.

Supplier	Expiry Date
RL Datix	29 April 2027
CLWRota from Rotamap	15 March 2025
HealthRota	30 June 2026

9. The UHB confirms that the contract end date for its DE software is 30 June 2026.

10. The UHB confirms that the contract end date for its MV software is 30 June 2026.