

Reference:	FOI.16523.25
Subject:	Parking management
Date of Request:	4 February 2025

Requested:

1. Provide the name, job title and contact details for the person responsible for car park management
2. Provide the name, job title and contact details for the person responsible for procuring any external provider of car park management services
3. Confirm if your car parks are managed by yourselves 'in house' or are managed by an external contractor
4. Where an external contractor manages your car parks please state the following:
 - a. Company name(s)
 - b. Value of the current contract(s)
 - c. Start and end date of current contract(s)
 - d. Any contract extensions already implemented, or planned to be implemented, and the length of these extensions
5. For external provision of the service, please confirm the procurement route used to tender for these services (eg. via a named framework agreement, direct award, etc.)
6. What methods do you currently have in place to manage your car parks (eg. attendant, ANPR, barrier, permit system)
7. What is the planned date(s) for the renewal of your contract(s) or re-tender of the car park management services
8. How do you plan to procure your next external provider of car park management services and what is the time scale for this?

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 question 4b relate to a third party 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 party and has taken their comments into consideration. It has therefore been decided that releasing this 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 contract costs for its car park supplier, Group Nexus, is greater than the interest in disclosing it.

1. The UHB confirms that Gareth Skye, Business and Governance Manager, (Gareth.skye@wales.nhs.uk) is responsible for car park management within the UHB.
2. The UHB confirms that Alun James, Senior Procurement Business Manager, (alun.james@wales.nhs.uk) is responsible for procuring any external providers of car park management services within the UHB.
3. The UHB confirms that there are two (2) car parks managed internally, and two (2) car parks managed externally.
4. The UHB provides, within the table below, the external contractor details as requested:

a. Company name	Group Nexus
b. Value of current contract	Section 43 applied
c. Start and end date of current contract	1 August 2021 to 1 April 2025
d. Contact extensions	Plan to extend from 1 April 2025 to 1 August 2025

5. The procurement route used by the UHB to tender for these services is a voluntary ex ante transparency notice (VEAT).
6. The UHB has parking attendants and a permit system in place to manage its car parks.
7. The UHB confirms that the planned date for renewal of the contract for car park management services is 1 August 2025.
8. The UHB confirms that a procurement framework has yet to be determined.