

Reference:	FOI.4528.20
Subject:	Property management solution
Date of Request:	16 November 2020

Requested:

1. If any, the name of the software solution(s) used to manage your Computer-aided facility management (CAFM).
2. Who are the current supplier(s)?
3. What was the actual contract value(s) of each contract?
4. Start date & duration of the contract.
5. Is there an extension clause in the contract(s) and, if so, the duration of the extension?
6. Has a decision been made yet on whether the contract(s) are being either extended or renewed?
7. Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms the name of its current software solution is Real Asset Management 4000 (RAM).
2. The UHB confirms that the current supplier is MRI Software Ltd.

In addition, the UHB has recently purchased an alternative maintenance software system called CAFM, provided by the IDOX Group. This new system offers many additional enhancements for improved management of operational assets. The data is currently being gathered and entered into the new system and has scheduled a 'go live' date after April 2021, which will replace the current RAM system.

3. The UHB considers that Section 43 applies to the contract value, as answering would be Prejudicial to their Commercial Interests. Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 exempts information, disclosure of which would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, in this case the supplier 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 listed as it would disclose their pricing, and this 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.

It has therefore been decided above that releasing the information under the Freedom of Information Act, 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.

Decision:- The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the contract value, is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the companies to which this information concerns.

4. The UHB confirms that the current annual maintenance contract is from May 2020 to April 2021.
5. The UHB confirms that there is no extension clause in the contract.
6. The UHB confirms that due a new Computer aided facility management (CAFM) system being implemented in April 2021, a new maintenance support package will be procured with Idox, the CAFM provider.
7. The UHB confirms that the Assistant Head of Operations, Paul Evans, is responsible for this contract.