

Reference:	FOI.6147.21
Subject:	Rostering systems
Date of Request:	3 June 2021

Requested:

The details we require are:

1. Do you use an online, cloud-based rota system/portal/platform?
2. The name of the online, cloud-based rota system/portal/platform.
3. The number of staff currently using the online, cloud-based rota system/portal/platform.
4. What is your current, annual spend (GBP) for the provision of this online, cloud-based rota system/portal/platform?
5. When did your current contract start with the online, cloud-based rota system/portal/platform?
6. When is your current contract due to end for the provision of the online, cloud-based rota system/portal/platform?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does use online cloud based rostering systems.
2. The UHB confirms that the online cloud based rota systems currently being used are Allocate and CLWRota. The UHB is currently transferring to Allocate from RosterPro, which is not a cloud based system.
3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of staff currently using the online cloud based systems.

System	Number
Allocate	1,584
CLWRota	57

Please note:- the number of bank staff on the Allocate system will increase with the rollout. CLWRota is only in use within the Anaesthetics service in Carmarthenshire at present.

4. The UHB considers that Section 43 applies to the contract costs for Allocate and CLWRota, as answering would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (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 sought the opinion of the third parties for consideration as part of the public interest test. CLWRota consented to the disclosure of its costs and as such these have not been considered as part of the Section 43 exemption.

However, the UHB has considered the following when deciding whether or not to disclose the contract costs attributed to the Allocate contract:

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 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.

Releasing the information under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, could 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 costs for Allocate is greater than the interests in disclosing them and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the companies to which this information concerns.

However, the UHB can confirm that the annual cost for the CLWRota contract is £17,108.20 for the financial year 2021/22. Please note, the CLWRota service is charged per user and therefore, annual costs can vary.

5. The UHB provides, within the table below, the current contract start date for each system.

System	Start date
Allocate	31 December 2020
CLWRota	23 March 2021

6. The UHB provides, within the table below, the contract end date for each system.

System	End date
Allocate	30 December 2025
CLWRota	22 March 2022

