

Reference:	FOI.1943.19
Subject:	Web filtering
Date of Request:	14 November 2019

Requested:

1. Which Web Filtering Solution do you currently have implemented at the trust?
2. How many users does this support?
3. Who was this purchased through?
4. How much is the current contract value and how many years does this cover?
5. When is the Web Filtering contract due to expire?
6. Who is in charge of reviewing the web filtering contract/solution?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has implemented Forcepoint web filtering solution.
2. The UHB's web filtering solution, Forecepoint, supports 9,600 users.
3. The UHB purchased Forecepoint web filtration solution through Softcat.
4. As the current contract value requested from the UHB relates to third parties, the UHB considers that Section 43 applies to question 4, as answering would be Prejudicial to their Commercial Interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, disclosure of which would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, in this case the provider listed above. Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would 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 as it would disclose their pricing and products/services provided to the UHB, 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 200, 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 thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the company to which this information concerns.

The UHB can confirm the contract length is one (1) year.

5. The UHB's contract with Forcepoint web filtration solution is due to expire 29 April 2020.
6. Paul Solloway, Head of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for the UHB is responsible for reviewing the web filtering contract/solution.