

Date: Thursday, 14th November 2019
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4094

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4094

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 29th October 2019.

Your request was as follows:

I would like information about the provider of pharmacy services to the hospitals in your trust.

Could you please provide the following information, by hospital:

1. Are the pharmacy services in-house or outsourced? (proceed to Section I if in-house and Section II if outsourced). If part of the services are in-house (tendered through the Department of Health / NHS frameworks) and part outsourced (for example for outpatients), please answer both parts.

2. Who are your suppliers for:

2.1. Clozapine (antipsychotic)

2.2. Fluoxetine (antidepressant)

2.3. Lithium carbonate (anticonvulsant)

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) does not have our own Pharmacy. We have a Service Level Agreement with Aintree University Hospital (Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) to provide Pharmacy Services.

Clozapine - N/A clozapine is used within specialist mental health services only so we do not purchase it.

Fluoxetine & lithium (note lithium is not an anticonvulsant, and is purchased and prescribed as a branded product.) There are multiple potential suppliers from leading wholesalers such as Alliance, AAH, Mawdsley. Over a 12 month period we would typically purchase lithium and fluoxetine from any major wholesaler.

Section I - in-house pharmacy

1. Did the trust tender through the Department of Health's Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU)?

a. If not, tendered through CMU:



- i. How did the trust / hospital tender?
- ii. Who applied to fill the tender?
- iii. What were the tender criteria?
- iv. Why was the chosen supplier awarded the contract?
- v. Is the chosen supplier the trust's de-facto supplier?
- vi. What is the annual cost of the contract?

N/A

b. If tendered through CMU:

- i. How many suppliers are engaged with the hospitals to provide pharmaceuticals?
- ii. On average, what discounts does the supplier offer vs. the retail price?

N/A

2. Delivery of pharmaceuticals:

- a. How often do you get deliveries from pharmaceutical suppliers?
- b. Is the delivery a fixed amount of each contracted drug or is it based on the hospital's stock of the drug i.e. more frequently used drugs are delivered in larger quantities and more frequently by the supplier?
- c. Is the stock of each drug monitored manually on an Excel sheet or electronically via a specialised software?
 - i. If monitored by specialist software, who is the provider of said software?

N/A

3. Current provider:

- a. Has / have the current providers always been the suppliers of pharmaceuticals for the hospital for more than 3 years?
 - i. If not, who was the previous supplier?
 - ii. Why were the old supplier's contract not renewed?

N/A

Section II - Outsourced pharmacy

1. Current provider:

- a. Who is the current provider of your outsourced pharmacy services?
- b. Are they the de-facto provider for all pharmaceutical needs? If not, could you list the other providers?
- c. How did the hospital contract the current provider?
 - i. What is the duration of the contract?
 - ii. What were the key terms of the contract that the supplier had to meet?
 - iii. How many suppliers applied for the contract?
 - iv. Has / have the current providers always been the suppliers of pharmaceuticals for the hospital for more than 3 years?
 1. If not, who was the previous supplier?
 2. Why were the old supplier's contract not renewed?
- d. On average, what discounts does the supplier offer vs. the retail price?
- e. How often do you get deliveries from pharmaceutical suppliers?
- f. Is the delivery a fixed amount of each contracted drug or is it based on the hospital's stock of the drug i.e. more frequently used drugs are delivered in larger quantities and more frequently by the supplier?
- g. Is the stock of each drug monitored manually on an Excel sheet or electronically via a specialised software?
 - i. If monitored by specialist software, who is the provider of said software?
 - 1.a. Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Pharmacy Dept.
 - 1.b. Yes - Aintree provide/manage all Pharmacy services for WCFT.
 - 1.c. This contract is a historical agreement under a service level agreement due to on-site Pharmacy facilities available at Aintree Hospital.
 - 1.c.i. 24 month Service Level Agreements.
 - 1.c.ii. This will be as agreed in the Service Level Agreement.

1.c.iii. There is no competition process, as we have an historical agreement.

1.c.iv. Yes

1. N/A

2. N/A

1.d. Medicines are charged to The WCFT by the contracted Pharmacy at the same price they pay, which includes any CMU negotiated or wholesaler discounts. The WCFT does not compare the prices to retail prices.

1.e - 1.i. Deliveries are made at least daily, usually multiple times per day and are based on The WCFT's stock levels and individual patient needs. Stocks are monitored manually, not electronically.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4094 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information