

Date: Thursday, 25th February 2021  
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4627

Sid Watkins Building  
Lower Lane  
Fazakerley  
Liverpool L9 7BB  
Tel: 01515253611  
Fax: 01515295500  
Direct Line: 01515563038

**Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4627**

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 17th February 2021.

Your request was as follows:

1.  Who is the current provider for the trusts network infrastructure? - When considering network infrastructure this is specifically the switching hardware and wireless access points that may be deployed throughout the trusts estate and associated cabling etc.

North Tech

2.  How many sites does the trust have responsibility for that require a network infrastructure as detailed above?

One site with two buildings

3.  What manufacturer does the trust use for the above-mentioned network infrastructure?

HP & Cisco

4.  What are the approximate number of network switches deployed throughout the estate?

Approx 130

5.  What are the approximate number of wireless access points deployed across the estate?

Approx 175

6.  What is the latest Wi-Fi version the trust support i.e. 802.11 b/g/n/ac/ax

802.11 b/g/n

7.  Does the trust provide public Wi-Fi access via its network infrastructure and wireless access points it has deployed?

Yes - Approx 175

8.  How often does the trust refresh the deployed network infrastructure?

Approx 8 years

9.  When do the existing contracts for the switching network and wireless network expire?

31/01/2022

10.  What vendor currently provides the trust's cyber security system?

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 31(1a) - The prevention or detection of crime

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We consider that if the data you have requested were to be combined with other information which may be available in the public domain, there would likely to be an increased risk of a cyber-security attack upon the Trust. As part of the Critical National Infrastructure for the NHS, the Trust has a duty to protect the integrity of our systems. The disclosure of the information requested could expose weaknesses in our systems and lead to breaches, making the UK or its citizens, in this case our patients, more vulnerable to security threat.

Public Interest Test

To use this exception we are required to undertake a public interest test. The matters which were considered in applying the public interest test are as follows:

Factors in favour of disclosure:

- Disclosure of the data supports the general public interest in the transparency, accountability and general understanding of the delivery of public services.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- Breaches in Trust security and is therefore a reasonable threat to the confidential patient data held on our systems.
- Temporary or long term lack of availability of IT systems
- Corruption/loss of patient data which would prevent or interrupt provision of patient care.

There is a strong public interest in protecting the confidentiality of patient data and of ensuring that healthcare services can be provided to the public without increasing the possibility of attack by hackers or malware, or of putting personal or other information held on these systems at risk of corruption or subject to illegal access. For these reasons, the Trust has decided that it is in the public interest to withhold this information at this time.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

11.  How many users utilise the cyber security solution?

All users benefit, IT staff use directly (5)

12.  How often does the cyber security solution get refreshed or upgraded?

Annually.

13.  Who provides the current cyber security solution? I.e. is this direct with the software company or through a partner?

Partner (Phoenix Software)

14.  When do the existing contracts for the current cyber security solution expire?

March 2022.

15.  How does the trust purchase new hardware is this via a standard industry framework agreement or directly to the market via an open tendering process?

Predominantly via framework, but will be dependent on requirement and value. Frameworks utilised include Health Trust Europe, Crown Commercial Services.

16.  Does the trust have a fully defined IT strategy?

Yes

17.  If the answer to question 10 is yes can a copy be provided?

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible to you

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), as it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you have requested is published on The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) website. Please use the following links:

[http://www.thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk/uploadedfiles/Digital%20Strategy%202020%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk/uploadedfiles/Digital%20Strategy%202020%20(1).pdf)

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

18.  Can the trust provide a copy of the IT departments organisational chart or if not available a list of the names and roles of those people that work in it.

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it.

Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible to you. This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), as it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you have requested is published on The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) website. Please use the following links:

<http://www.thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk/166/corporate.html>

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

19.  Finally, can the trust confirm if the IT department make the final decisions with regards to purchasing new solutions for the IT environment.

Justin Griffiths - Head of IM&T.

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](http://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](http://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 4627 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**