

Date: Wednesday, 16th June 2021
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 4761

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4761

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 03rd June 2021.

Your request was as follows:

On 23 February 2019, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that NHS trusts should have infrastructure in place to replace pagers (bleeps) by 30 September 2021, with complete phase out of pagers (bleeps) by 31 December 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-and-social-care-secretary-bans-pagers-from-the-nhs>

Under the FOI Act, please provide the following information, with "pagers" used as a synonym for "bleeps":

1. As at 31 May 2021, how many pagers were in use in your Trust?

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust does not have our own pagers/bleeps. We have a Service Level Agreement with Aintree University Hospital to provide pager/bleep Services; therefore we cannot provide this information.

2. For the financial year ending 31 March 2021, what is the total annualised cost of pagers (broken down by equipment rental, licences, low value equipment replacement, maintenance of infrastructure, depreciation on capital assets and any other costs)?

N/A

3. What stage of procurement and implementation is your Trust currently at and what are the achieved and proposed times for the various steps (e.g. business case approved, tender issued, contract awarded, implementation started, test system is live/user acceptance testing, deployed system is live)?

N/A

4. If a contract has been awarded, which pager replacement system has your Trust selected?

N/A

5. What additional features does your proposed (or implemented) pager replacement system have, compared with previous capability? (e.g. integration with electronic patient record)

N/A

6. How many *users* and how many *devices* will the pager replacement system have?

N/A

7. What is the estimated total annualised cost of the replacement system (broken down by equipment rental, licences, low value equipment replacement, maintenance of infrastructure, depreciation on capital assets and any other costs)?

N/A

8. Will the trust retain some pagers for *emergency* communications or will emergency communications be handled by the pager replacement system? If some pagers are being retained, how many?

N/A

9. If the pager replacement system fails, what will be used as a backup system? (e.g. do you have plans to use staff personal devices?)

N/A

10. Is the Trust on course to phase out pagers for *non-emergency* communications by 31 December 2021? If not, by when?

N/A

11. Is there a benefits realisation plan or post-implementation monitoring plan in place?

N/A

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 4761 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