

Date: Tuesday, 14th May 2024  
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 6310

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

**Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 6310**

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 09th May 2024.

Your request was as follows:

Enquiry : I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, relating to the Accounts Payable team capabilities and protections against fraud, errors, duplicates and compliance.

1. Does the authority share accounts payable or procurement functions with another authority or shared service function? If yes, who?

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) do not share accounts payable or procurement functions with another authority or shared service function.

2. Which ERP system is used by the authority (e.g. Oracle, SAP, Advanced, Civica)?

The WCFT use Advanced.

3. Please state the total number and value of supplier transactions (invoices and credit notes) processed by Accounts Payable in the last financial year?

32,724 (number)

£129,433,506 (Value)

4. Does the authority utilise any 3rd party software to identify or protect against supplier payment errors (including duplicate, erroneous payments or potential fraud) before payment is made?

4a. If yes, please state the name of the software, the engagement date, the current contract end date and the annual value of the contract awarded to the external organisation (or total value and contract length).

The WCFT do not utilise any 3rd party software for the above

5. Does the authority utilise any 3rd party or 3rd party software to identify historical payment errors (including duplicate, erroneous payments or potential fraud)?

5a. If yes, please state the name of the software or partner, the engagement date and the current contract end date and frequency of engagement (if not continuous). Please also provide the contract value or terms of engagement (if not a fixed fee).

5b. Please provide the value of monies recovered by the software or partner for the most recent financial year.

The WCFT do not utilise any 3rd party or 3rd party software to identify historical payment errors.

6. Does the authority utilise any 3rd party or 3rd party software to reconcile supplier statements and identify overpayments or unclaimed credits on a regular basis?

6a. If yes, please provide the name of the provider/software and a brief description of frequency/level of support.

6b. Please provide the current contract end date and the annual value of the contract awarded to the external organisation (or total value and contract length).

The WCFT do not utilise any 3rd party or 3rd party software to reconcile supplier statements and identify overpayments or unclaimed credits.

7. Does the authority make any checks, either directly or via any 3rd party or 3rd party software to identify sanctioned suppliers, both directly and indirectly owned, within the supplier master file?

7a. If yes, please provide the name of the provider/software and confirm the frequency of checking.

The WCFT do not make any checks, either directly or via any 3rd party or 3rd party software to identify sanctioned suppliers

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 6310 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 by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

*Mike Burns*

**Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information**