

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/10493

Date Received: 3rd February 2025

Response Due: 3rd March 2025

Date: 3rd March 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 3rd February 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and would be grateful if you could provide the following information regarding Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust's expenditure on staff uniforms:

1. ****Total uniform expenditure** for the last financial year (April 2022 – March 2023) and, if available, the current financial year to date (April 2023 – present).**
2022/23 = £71,510.
2. ****Breakdown of uniform items purchased** (clinical and non-clinical staff), including:**
 - a. **Type of uniform items purchased (e.g., tunics, trousers, scrubs, polo shirts, jackets, etc.).**
 - b. **The number of each uniform item purchased.**
 - c. **The unit price of each uniform item**

Type	Number	Unit Price
Blouse	330	This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please see the below.
Coat	115	
Tunic	1,580	
Dress	368	
Trousers	1,826	
Polo	398	
Fleece	99	

Shoes	46	
Chef Jacket	134	
Admin Shirts	40	
Sweatshirts	46	
Scrub Top	2,559	

3. **Suppliers: A list of uniform suppliers used by the Trust.**

- Work in Style
- MI Hub
- Slaters
- Arco

4. **Procurement Process: If applicable, details of any existing contracts or agreements for uniform procurement.**

Supplier	Contract Dates	Framework Reference
MWUK ACQUISITION CO LTD T/A ALEXANDRA (MI Hub)	13/05/2021 to 31/03/2026	FAG16448
WORK IN STYLE LTD UK	01/04/2021 to 18/04/2026	FAG000017463

Section 43(2) – Commercial interests

Information regarding unit price has been withheld under section 43(2) of the FOIA if its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

Section 43 of the FOIA is a qualified exemption and is subject to the Prejudice Test and the Public Interest Test.

Prejudice test

We confirm that we have carried out a full prejudice test and that, on the balance of probability, the Trust's interests would be prejudiced in the event of disclosure. Therefore, we confirm that the Prejudice Test is engaged.

Public interest test

We have also carried out the Public Interest Test to ascertain whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in withholding the requested information:

Public interest in disclosure of the information:

- We acknowledge that there is public interest in transparency around how the Trust engages with suppliers and procurement.
- We acknowledge that there is public interest in the Trust's finances.

Public interest in withholding of the information:

- **Protecting public finances** – As a public authority, the Trust must ensure that it obtains the best value for money. Disclosure of the information would be likely to affect the quality of future offers provided to the Trust. It is therefore firmly in the public interest not to disclose any information which would affect commercial offers made to the Trust, which in turn will affect the Trust's finances.

• **Ensuring fair competition** – Information provided to the Trust during the procurement process contains sensitive competition information. It is not in the public interest to disclose information which would affect free and fair competition.

• **Transparency** – We understand that there is public interest in how the Trust engages with suppliers. However, we consider that the information held by the Trust would not significantly further the public understanding of its relationship with these suppliers beyond what has already been disclosed in this response.

• **Reputation damage or loss of confidence** - It is firmly in the public interest that the Trust takes all steps to protect its reputation around information handling. It is not in the public interest to do anything which would jeopardise our ability to maintain strong working relationships with third parties.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner
Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111