

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
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Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/11034

Date Received: 29th August 2025

Response Due: 24th October 2025

Date: 22nd October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 29th August 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:

1. **The name of the supplier/s who service your weighing devices (baby scales, chair scales, floor scales, column scales, patient transfer scales, bench scales for example)**
Seca.
2. **How many weighing devices are covered by this contract?**
342.
3. **A List of these devices stating make/model**
Please see the attached list.
4. **How many addresses are covered by this contract?**
17.
5. **What standard (or average) price per scale do you pay for servicing**
This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the FOI Act.
6. **The date that the servicing contract ends.**
July 2026.
7. **The value of total spend on weighing devices (split between patient weighing and other) excluding servicing in the last 3 calendar years split by year; split by each site/address**
This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the FOI Act.

8. **The value of that spend by weighing device supplier in the last 3 calendar years split by year.**
This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the FOI Act.
9. **Do you have any weighing devices integrated directly or indirectly to an electronic patient records system (EPR)?**
No.
10. **Which electronic patient records system do you use/plan to use?**
HIS.
11. **If you haven't done so already, do you intend to integrate weighing scales to an EPR in the next 12-24 months?**
No.
12. **Do you use Welch Allen Vital signs monitors in the Trust, if so, how many and are any of these connected to weighing devices?**
No.
13. **How many suppliers were invited to tender/were considered for your current contract**
2.
14. **What was the decision criteria with regard to the current contract including any weighting**
Seca can perform LOLAR tests, give discounts on new/replacement scales and quoted less.

Section 43(2) – Commercial interests

Information regarding spend on devices 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