

Ref: FOI/2024/9502

Date Received: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Response Due: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 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. **Does the Trust use ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitors? (Yes or No)**  
Yes  
  
**1(i) If "Yes" then which make and models are currently in use and how many of each are currently deployed?**  
Space lab -Life cards 30  
Novacor -R tests 50  
  
**1(ii) If "No" then does the Trust intend to implement ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitoring in the near future? (Yes or No)**  
N/A
2. **Does the Trust use software to read EDF reports? If ""Yes"" then which vendor(s) are used?**  
No
3. **Does the Trust use an external ECG Interpretation Provider. If ""Yes"" then which vendor(s) are used?**  
No
4. **How many ambulatory electrocardiogram ECG readings does the Trust perform each year?**  
6500

5. **What is the split of the ambulatory ECG reading volumes in question 5, by length of recording? (e.g. 24hr, 48h, 72h, 7-day, 14-day)**  
 24hr - 72%  
 72hr - 23%  
 48 and 7 day <5%  
 rarely 14days
6. **In what environment are the ambulatory ECG holters fitted? (e.g. secondary care, community diagnostic centre [CDC], primary care)**  
 Secondary care and CDC
7. **What is your preferred buying method for these devices? (e.g. Direct, Supply Chain, Other)**  
 Supply chain
8. **How much did the Trust pay for its currently deployed ECG Holter devices and software (per device), and what costs are associated with maintenance, such as battery replacement, servicing etc?**  
 Please find exemption below.
9. **Does the Trust have service contracts for the currently deployed ambulatory ECG devices. If so, how much is this per annum for the different brand of devices by vendor(s)?**  
 Novacor R test £300 service  
 Space lab -Life cards £300 service
10. **How many ambulatory ECG monitors did the Trust purchase in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 per make and model of Holter monitor?**  
 All Novacor R test  
 2020 0  
 2021 0  
 2022 5  
 2023 15
11. **What is the Trust's wait time for ambulatory ECG Holter Fittings and ECG reporting?**  
 4 weeks
12. **Is the Trust meeting their targets for ambulatory ECG recording volumes and patient waiting times? (Yes or No)**  
 Yes
13. **What are the Trusts biggest challenges for cardiology ECG ambulatory recordings?**  
 We are not required to create new information to respond to a request or give judgement or opinion that is not already recorded. Furthermore, the Trust is not required to create new information or find answers to a question from staff that may happen to know. The Information Commissioner has confirmed this position in its online guidance on handling FOI requests.
14. **Is the Trust considering purchasing any new ambulatory ECG Holter monitors? For replacement of old devices, broken devices, or needing more equipment?**  
 No
15. **Who is the Trust's senior electrophysiologist or cardiology manager and what are their contact details? (Name, position, email, telephone)**  
 Dr Dhawan- consultant cardiologist / Jennifer Spicer, Physiologist and service manager

The Trust does not routinely give out email addresses and direct telephone numbers of staff members as a large number of unsolicited emails/telephone calls could cause disruption to work by blocking email accounts/telephone lines and thereby preventing true work-related emails/calls from being delivered. However, any of the above staff can be contacted via main switchboard on 01942 244000

#### Section 43(2) – Commercial interests

Information regarding How much the Trust paid for its ECG Holter devices and software 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 Canon 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,

Desai - P.A.

Paritosh Desai  
Divisional Director of Operations & Performance (Medicine)

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