

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/9892

Date Received: 29th May 2024

Response Due: 26th June 2024

Date: 26th June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 29th May 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. The name, job title, and contact details for the person responsible for car park management.

Job Title: Trust Car Parking and Security Manager.

It is not Trust policy to release details of non-patient facing members of staff below AfC band 8a.

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

2. The name, job title, and contact details for the person responsible for procuring the external providers (if any) which manage your car parks.

WWL Procurement Department.

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

3. On which of your sites do you have car parks? Please list.

Water Street, Buckingham Row and numerous small community facilities across Wigan Metropolitan Borough.

4. Please confirm for each of the above car parks how many spaces are included.

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary = 396 (including Freckleton Street)

Leigh Infirmary = 531

Wrightington Hospital = 562

Thomas Linacre Centre = 119

Mesnes Terrace = 321

Water Street = 200

Buckingham Row = 61

5. Which of these car parks are managed by you and which are managed by external providers? Please list for each.

Car parks are managed by the Trusts Car Park and Security Team in association with a 3rd party provider.

6. Of those managed by external providers - please state:

a. The company names of these providers

OCS.

b. The value(s) of the current contract(s)

This information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act – see below.

c. The start and end dates of the current contracts

Start Date = April 2022.

End Date = September 2024.

d. If there are any extensions in place or planned to these contracts and the length of these extensions.

An extension is in place until December 2024.

7. What procurement route(s) did you use to tender for these external providers of car park management? Please state for each current external provider (e.g. via a named framework agreement, competitive competition, direct award, etc.)

Competitive tender using framework providers.

8. What methods are currently being used to manage your car parks (e.g. ANPR, barriers, attendants, etc.)? Please state for each car park.

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary = Car parking is divided by Pay and display and barrier access and attendants.

Leigh Infirmary = Car parking is divided by Pay and display and barrier access and attendant.

Thomas Linacre Centre = Car parking is divided by Pay and display and barrier access and attendant.

Wrightington Hospital = Car parking is divided by Pay and display and barrier access and attendants.

Water Street = barrier access.

Mesnes Terrace = barrier access and attendant.

9. Do you have any plans to change how you manage your car parks (e.g. from barriers to ANPR)?

We are currently considering reviewing the car parking arrangements across the Trust to improve the parking experience for patients, visitors and staff, all options are being considered.

10. What is the planned date(s) for renewal for your contract(s) for external provider(s) of car park management?

January 2025.

11. How do you plan to procure your next external provider(s) of car park management (existing framework, new framework, competitive competition, direct award, extension of existing contract, etc.)? What is the timescale for this?

Competitive tender using framework provider.

12. Would you consider a direct award to a preferred supplier?

No.

Section 43(2) – Commercial interests

Information regarding the value of the current contract 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 contractors. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Gardner', on a light-colored background.

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