

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 18-416

Date 14 August 2018

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

A copy of your Information asset register (IAR), i.e. a register of all of the datasets that you are responsible for. If you do not hold IARs, please provide other indexes or registers of information assets, which fulfil a function similar to that of an information asset register. I would like this in a spreadsheet format, such as Excel.

The Trust is withholding the requested information as we have considered that publicising a list of systems and versions could leave the Trust vulnerable to cyberattack. We are therefore applying the following exemptions: **Section 31** – Prejudice to Law Enforcement and **Section 38(b)** – Endangering Health and Safety.

Public Interest Test

The Trust considers that there is a strong public interest in openness and transparency of public authorities. There would be a significant public interest in knowing that the Trust manages data responsibly and securely, particularly since it holds a great deal of confidential and valuable data.

Under **Section 31(1)(a)** of the FOI Act 2000, we are required to judge whether the information would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime; which specifically for this request would relate to the Trust's computer systems and information, such as hacking, theft of data, misuse of confidential data or the disruption of the Trust's operations.

The Trust does not believe that there is any compelling public interest in knowing details of our Information asset register and disclosure of this would leave us vulnerable to a cyberattack, which would outweigh the public interest in the Trust's secure maintenance of sensitive and confidential data. University Hospitals Bristol NHS Trust accepts that there is a strong public interest in maintaining the security of confidential data and not increasing the vulnerability of the security systems to criminal activity.

Under **Section 38(b)** of the FOI Act 2000, we are required to judge whether the information is exempt from disclosure if the information would or would be likely to endanger the safety of any individual.

The Trust does not believe that there is any compelling public interest in knowing details of our Information asset register and disclosure of this would endanger the safety of individuals and would undermine the functioning of a system established to protect the public's health and safety. We have also considered that disclosure of this information would provide intelligence that would allow known individuals to be targeted.

The Trust has carefully considered all public interest arguments both in favour of disclosure and of maintaining the exemptions. We have considered that it is vitally important to protect the public's safety and also the security of our IT systems against criminal or malicious attack and that there is an extremely compelling interest in doing so. We do not believe that this is outweighed by the arguments in favour of openness and transparency in public sector organisations.

The Trust considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions in all of the circumstances of this case outweighs that in disclosure of the withheld information. Under guidance from the Freedom of Information Act, the Trust has therefore decided to withhold the requested information.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, 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:

Trust Secretary
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above 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 at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

FOI Team
UH Bristol NHS Foundation Trust