



**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: UHB 19-692**

2 December 2019

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

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

1. Does the trust operate any clinical decision support systems (examples above)
  - a. If so, which ones?
2. What is the cost of licences (and any other support) the Trust paid on clinical decision support systems in the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19

To assist you, what I mean by clinical decision support systems, these are stand alone or integrated software which helps clinical staff make safe decisions and take appropriate action. They can be algorithms, care plans, clinical referencing, or clinical condition specific guidelines which incorporate treatment or decision making.

Proprietary examples include:

- BestPractice (BMJ)
- ClinicalKey, ExpertPath, STATdx, Arezzo (Elsevier)
- DXS
- DynaMed, DynaMed Plus, Isabel (EBSCO)
- First DataBank, Zynx (Hearst)
- IBM Watson, Micromedex (IBM)
- iRefer (MedCurrent)
- MedicinesComplete (BNF)
- Provation
- LexiComp, UpToDate (WoltersKluwer)
- ThinkResearch (ThinkResearch Corporation)

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust is using many systems, has hundreds of policies and follows all national guidelines. Not all systems are centrally managed by the Trust's IT department. In addition, most of the systems could potentially be used for decision-making. To identify and share all those systems, policies and guidelines would take the Trust more than 18 hours to complete and it is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 12 of the FOI Act.

However, from the examples of the systems you have provided the Trust was able to identify that it uses UPtodate from company Wolters Kluwer. The system is used approximately 40,000 times a year at a cost of 51,000 in 2019/20 and 47,000 in 2018/19.

The Trust also has access to BMJ Best Practice via a national subscription from Health Education England.

3. Has the trust developed their own electronic clinical decision support system(s)?

The Trust uses algorithms for decision making for various cases but as per question 1 and 2, these are too many to share and used in various departments.

4. If so, what were the WTE and total funding costs incurred in development of their own clinical decision support system(s) for the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively.

The Trust does not hold this information. In the case that employees were involved in the writing of scripts and algorithms this would be part of their day-to-day role.

5. What was the Trusts' total operating budget for financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively.

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 the FOI Act as it is already reasonably accessible by other means. Please see our website at <http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/about-us/key-publications/>. The Trust's annual reports include the information requested.

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:

Director of Corporate Governance  
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**