

Request Title: IT Department Structure and Budget - 2022

FOI Reference: PSC-81846-N7K8

Date of Disclosure: 15/03/2022

Date Range: 2022-2023

FOI Request:

1. *“ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy- The IT department strategy or plans, highlights their current and future objectives.*
2. *ICT Org Chart- A visual document that presents the structure of the IT department, please include name and job titles. If this cannot be sent, please work towards a structure with job titles.*
3. *ICT Annual or Business Plan- Like the ICT strategy but is more annually focused.*
4. *ICT Capital Programme/budget- A document that shows financials budget on current and future projects.”*

Our Response:

Under section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act, we confirm that we hold the information requested. Please see our response as follows.

1. We confirm we hold the information requested; however, this information is being withheld in full pursuant to section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 43 is a qualified exemption, requiring a public interest test, which we have conducted below.
2. See the organisation chart attached (**attachment 1**). Please note, we do not disclose employee names below director level.
3. We confirm we hold the information requested; however, this information is being withheld in full pursuant to section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 43 is a qualified exemption, requiring a public interest test, which we have conducted below.
4. There are 17 projects in the Strategy Action Plan for 22/23, which was agreed in February 2022. These 17 technology related projects in FY2022/23 have a capital budget of £5.929m'. These include technology systems (implementations, upgrades & decommissions) and technology equipment-based projects.

Public Interest Test

Section 43 is a qualified exemption. This means that whilst we understand the data is commercially sensitive, we are required to assess the public interest in releasing the data and determine if it outweighs that of withholding it.

Factors in favour of release:

- Releasing information relating to our ICT strategy and business plan would benefit the public interest by encouraging transparency for how investments to the health economy are made.
- Releasing information relating to our ICT strategy and business plan would promote accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- We are committed to getting the best value for money for our services and our estate. Disclosing the requested information would undermine our competitive position in the marketplace.
- If released, the requested information may allow our competitors to undercut our offerings, diverting resources and funding away from the NHS.
- Disclosure of the requested information may impact our reputational and financial position in the marketplace. Purchasers would be significantly less likely to approach us for investment opportunities or would be less likely to make strong offers.
- Disclosure of the requested information, reputational and financial damage would affect future investments which would have a knock-on effect to the money raised for the health economy.
- It is firmly in the public interest that we engage in positive business relationships and are portrayed as strong portfolio holder. Disclosure of the requested information would likely undermine our position and detriment the NHS and patient care across England.

Having considered the above, we maintain that the factors in favour of upholding the exemption outweigh the factors in favour of disclosure. Therefore, the balance of the public interest test is greater in maintaining the exemption available under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.