

31 March 2023

## 3D Printing Technology in Belfast Trust

I am writing to Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland) to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to know:

	Info Requested	Info Held
1a	Is 3D printing technology being used at your facilities?	* Exemption applied based on infrastructure / supply chain information
1b	Do you plan on utilizing 3D Printing technology in the near future?	* Exemption applied based on infrastructure / supply chain information
1c	What part(s) do you intend to 3D print (e.g. Prosthetic limbs, hearing aids etc.)?	* Exemption applied based on infrastructure / supply chain information
2	What 3D Printers are being used for producing the parts (Brand name & model)?	* Exemption applied based on infrastructure / supply chain information
3	What type of parts/products are being printed (e.g. Prosthetic hand, prosthetic leg, splint, hip joint etc.) Please be specific.	* Exemption applied based on infrastructure / supply chain information
4	What materials are being commonly used for 3D printing at your facilities?	* Exemption applied based on infrastructure / supply chain information
5	What ISO standards and/or other ASTM/BS standards are being followed when producing the parts/products?	* Exemption applied based on infrastructure / supply chain information
6	Please briefly describe the ethics process that is required for using 3D printing parts in patients?	* Exemption applied based on infrastructure / supply chain information

\*All of the information above is exempt from release under Section 31(1)(a) - Law Enforcement and Section 43 – Commercial Interests.

Section 31(1)(a) states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems, which would make it more vulnerable to crime.

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It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime.

Section 43(2) states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Disclosure of the requested information would leave Belfast Trust's digital infrastructure at significant risk of cyber security attack. This would compromise Belfast Trust's ability to provide health and care services and to carry on business-as-usual, should the digital systems be compromised.

Both of these exemptions are Qualified Exemptions and are, therefore, subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT).

I can confirm that we have now carried out a PIT and the outcome is to maintain both exemptions and withhold the information from release.