

16 December 2024

Contract for Electronic Patient Record

Ref	Request	Information
1	Do you have an Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system in place?	* Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat
2	If so, what EPR is deployed?	* Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat
3	What is the value of the EPR contract, either annually or total contract value?	* Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat
4	When is the current EPR contract due for renewal?	* Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat

*All of this information is exempt from release under Section 31(1)(a) - Law Enforcement, Section 38 – Health and Safety 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. 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 38 – Health & Safety states that information is exempt if its disclosure could lead to the physical or mental harm of, or endanger the safety of, individuals. Disclosure of the requested information would leave the Belfast Trusts digital infrastructure at significant risk of cyber security attack. A cyber-security attack may lead to the placing of sensitive health and social care information into the public domain and, as such, the Trust believes there is a link between the risk of endangerment for data subjects and the disclosure of the requested information. There would likely be a substantial detrimental effect on the physical or mental health of patients, clients, staff or their families should the requested information be released.

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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 Trusts digital infrastructure at significant risk of cyber security attack. This would compromise Belfast Trust's ability to provide Health and Care Services and 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.