

11 June 2025

Healthcare IT Systems

I am writing to make a Freedom of Information request to your trust regarding software used in radiology.

Specifically, my FOI request covers the following 3 software packages used in your trust:

- **Radiology Information System (RIS)**
 - Examples include: Soliton Radiology+, Sectra RIS, Epic Radiant, Magentus Cris, etc.
- **Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS)**
 - Examples include: GE Healthcare Centricity, Fujifilm Synapse, Sectra PACS, etc.
- **Electronic Health Record (EHR) or Electronic Patient Record (EPR)**
 - Examples include: Epic, Cerner, System C, Dedalus, Veradigm, etc.

1. Please provide answers to the following questions for your trust's Radiology Information System (RIS). If your trust does not use a RIS, please state this.

- a) Which supplier?
- b) What is the name of the system?
- c) When was it installed (month and year)?
- d) When does the contract expire (month and year)?
- e) Is it annually renewed?
- f) What procurement framework do you use (e.g., tender)?
- g) What were the installation costs (in £)?
- h) What were the training costs (in £)?
- i) What are the annual maintenance costs (in £)?
- j) What is the annual spend on the RIS (in £)?
- k) What is the total value of the contract (in £)?
- l) Do you have any plans to replace the system (yes/no/maybe and why)?

2. Please provide answers to the following questions for your trust's Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). If your trust does not use a PACS, please state this.

- a) Which supplier?
- b) What is the name of the system?
- c) When was it installed (month and year)?

11 June 2025

- d) **When does the contract expire (month and year)?**
- e) **Is it annually renewed?**
- f) **What procurement framework do you use (e.g., tender)?**
- g) **What were the installation costs (in £)?**
- h) **What were the training costs (in £)?**
- i) **What are the annual maintenance costs (in £)?**
- j) **What is the annual spend on the PACS (in £)?**
- k) **What is the total value of the contract (in £)?**
- l) **Do you have any plans to replace the system (yes/no/maybe and why)?**

3. **Please provide answers to the following questions for your trust's Electronic Health Record (EHR). If your trust does not use an EHR, please state this.**

- m) **Which supplier?**
- n) **What is the name of the system?**
- o) **When was it installed (month and year)?**
- p) **When does the contract expire (month and year)?**
- q) **Is it annually renewed?**
- r) **What procurement framework do you use (e.g., tender)?**
- s) **What were the installation costs (in £)?**
- t) **What were the training costs (in £)?**
- u) **What are the annual maintenance costs (in £)?**
- v) **What is the annual spend on the EHR (in £)?**
- w) **What is the total value of the contract (in £)?**
- x) **Do you have any plans to replace the system (yes/no/maybe and why)?**

The information requested in this FOI request is exempt from release under Section 31 and Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

These are both qualified exemptions and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

- a) Leave Belfast Trust, patients, clients & staff more vulnerable to crime (Section 31);
- b) Pose a significant threat to the integrity & operation of the digital systems on which the day-to-day business of the Trust relies (Section 43).

Section 31 – Law Enforcement Section

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

11 June 2025

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 43 – Commercial Interests

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 the Belfast Trusts digital infrastructure at significant risk of cyber security attack. This would compromise the Belfast Trusts ability to provide Health & Care Services and carry on business-as usual should the digital systems be compromised.