

16 September 2025

Master / Neutral Vendor and e-Roster Platforms

Please can you provide me with the following information?

- **Do you use a master or neutral vendor for your supply of Medical Staff (Doctors – all grades)?**
- **If yes, please supply the name of the master or neutral vendor**
- **When does the contract expire?**

In response to the above questions, the Health and Social Care Framework for Medical and Dental Locums is neither a Master Vendor nor a Neutral Vendor framework.

The current Framework expires on 31 December 2025.

- **What is the name of the e-rostering platform that you use to support with medical staff rosters, e.g. RL Datix, Rotageek etc.?**

*Information withheld on the basis of cybersecurity threat.

- **When does the contract expire?**

*Information withheld on the basis of cybersecurity 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.

16 September 2025

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 Belfast Trust's 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.

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.

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 the exemptions and withhold the information from release.