

15 January 2026

IT Systems currently used to process patient data which are provided by vendors based outside of the UK and EU

Can you provide a detailed annotation, as specified below, of all those IT Systems currently used to process patient data which are provided by vendors based outside of the UK and EU, providing for each such system?

The application(s) name

The application(s) vendor(s)

The date from which use of the application commenced the contract expiration date which procurement framework the contract was established through how the security and compliance of the data processing undertaken has been assured

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust are withholding all information on this request based on cyber security threat. All of this information is exempt from release under Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement and Section 43 – Commercial Interests.

Section 31 – Law Enforcement

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 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).

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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