Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/38497

27 October 2026

IT Spend 2026 to 2026

1. **What is your Trust's capital and revenue IT spend for the financial year 2025 / 2026 (£)?**

   - Capital: £10,017,235
   - Revenue: £11,181,779

2. **Please break this figure down into the following categories, providing the capital and revenue cost for each, for the above requested financial year:**

   Categories:

   a. IT staff cost
   b. Software
   c. Services
   d. Hardware
   e. Communication equipment
   f. Other IT spend

   Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has disclosed the overall capital and revenue IT expenditure figures for 2025 / 2026 in response to Question 1 in the interests of transparency and accountability.

   The Trust is, however, withholding further breakdown under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Law Enforcement) - Prevention or Detection of Crime.

   The Trust considers that disclosure of a detailed breakdown of expenditure across areas such as staffing, software, services, hardware, communications equipment and other digital services would reveal information about the scale, composition, priorities and resourcing of the Trust's digital environment.

   This information would be of value to cyber criminals seeking to understand and target critical healthcare infrastructure and systems. When combined with other information already available, disclosure would contribute to a more detailed picture of the Trusts digital environment and investment, increasing the risks of cyber reconnaissance and targeted attack.

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.

This is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT).

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