

31 March 2023

Integrated Data Platform (for secondary use)

We are interested in certain information held by your organisation regarding your Integrated Data Platform (for secondary use). As part of your response, please can you include the following information:

Integrated Data Platform (for secondary use).

- 1. Do you use an Integrated Data Platform that consolidates multiple data sources for the purpose of analytics and reporting?**
- 2. Who is the supplier of this system or systems if more than one?**
- 3. When does the contract (contracts) expire (not including optional extensions)?**
- 4. Does your current contract meet all your statutory data submission needs?**
- 5. Does the Trust have a strategic Business Intelligence or Data Analytical tool?**
- 6. If so which one?**

Disclosure of information about Belfast Trusts core digital infrastructure would put the Trusts digital infrastructure under elevated levels of security risk and become more vulnerable to a malicious cyber security attack.

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).

The information requested is therefore exempt from release under the following Sections of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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

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The exemption is subject to the public interest test. There is an overwhelming public interest in keeping Health & Social Care digital systems secure which would be served by non-disclosure. This outweighs the public interest in accountability and transparency which would be served by disclosure.

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.

This exemption is subject to the public interest test. There is an overwhelming public interest in keeping Health & Social Care digital systems secure which would be served by non-disclosure. This outweighs the public interest in accountability and transparency which would be served by disclosure