

16 August 2024

Digital Infrastructure Capabilities and Degree on Integration

I am seeking information about your health system.

To better understand your digital infrastructure, including your capabilities and degree of integration, can you please tell me:

- **Are your data systems between primary, community, and secondary care integrated, and if not - do you have plans to integrate them?**

The HSC Digital Strategy 2022-2030 is leading digital transformation across healthcare in Northern Ireland to improve health and social care outcomes, supported by a range of strategic delivery programmes including Integrated Care System Northern Ireland. <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/digitalstrategy>

- **Do you have a baseline mapping of your digital infrastructure in place?**
 - **If it is not already in place, are you building one?**

* Information withheld on basis of cyber security threat

- **Do you have a public facing digital strategy?**

The HSC Digital Strategy 2022-2030 is leading digital transformation across healthcare in Northern Ireland to improve health & social care outcomes. <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/digitalstrategy>

- **Do you use patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU) processes or technology?**

Information withheld on basis of cybersecurity threat

- **Do you employ the following roles in your health system? If yes, approximately how many?**

1. **Chief System Integration Officer**
2. **Director of Digital Products**
3. **Director of Analytics**
4. **Digital Lead/Director**
5. **Director of Partnerships**
6. **Head/Director of Digital Solutions**
7. **Head/Director of Digital Innovation**
8. **Head/Director of Digital Transformation**

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- 9. Head/Director of System Strategy**
- 10. Head/Director of Integration**
- 11. Head/Director of Transformation**
- 12. Head/Director of System Partnerships**
- 13. Data Scientist**
- 14. Data Analyst**
- 15. AI Prompt Engineer - or any roles (in-house or outsourced)
focused on using AI**
- 16. Head/Director of Data Science/Artificial Intelligence**

No to all the above

17. Other roles related to innovation and/or transformation

Director of Performance, Planning and Informatics & Co-Director of Digital Services have lead responsibility for Digital innovation, integration and transformation

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This information is exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement 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. Information Commissioner's Office (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(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 Trust's 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.