

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6853

**Please reply to:**  
FOI Administrator  
Trust Management  
Maidstone Hospital  
Hermitage Lane  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME16 9QQ  
Email: [mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net](mailto:mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net)  
[www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk)

27 July 2021

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Clinical insourcing and waiting lists.

*You asked:*

*1. Do you currently contract with third-party providers to insource clinical services?*

*If you answered yes to question 1, please also provide the following detail:*

*1a. The name of your insourcing provider(s) and the specialities covered in this contract (if you use more than one supplier please also provide detail)*

*1b. The contract start and end dates (if multiple please list all)*

*1c. If your substantive staff are used as part of the insourcing team or if a full external team is used*

*1d. If you are charged per patient, per procedure, per healthcare resource group or a block or volume-based price*

*1e. If Trust/Health Board consumables (e.g. medical gloves, dressings, stationery, etc) are used in the facilitation of the insourcing service and if any charge is levied for using them?*

*1f. If your provider follows your operating procedures to facilitate the service*

*a) If yes, please detail the steps you take to ensure they are followed*

*b) If no, please detail how you ensure that the service is compliant and protects patient safety*

*1g. What days of the week your clinical insourcing services are provided on (please detail if this differs by speciality)*

*1h. Please detail your annual spend on clinical insourcing by speciality*

*2. Please detail your current average surgical and outpatient treatment waiting time by speciality (or direct to this information if it is publicly available)*

Trust response:

1. Yes, we have been insourcing in sonography although just finishing a contract.

The following information relates to Sonography.

1a. Your World Recruitment Group

1b. 1st February 2021 – 5th August 2021

1c. Clinical staff are all insourcing team. Use substantive reception staff

1d. Paid on sessional basis of the clinician

1e. Used and not charged. Included in agreed sessional price

1f. If your provider follows your operating procedures to facilitate the service

a. The provider is asked to work within our protocols which adhere to national guidelines.

The sonographer was given the protocols on starting with the department and given a tour of the department.

The sonographer also worked with substantive member of the ultrasound team for a day, to ensure they knew what ultrasound standards were expected.

Evidence was also requested of DQASS status in order to perform combined screening.

The sonographers were also audited by the screening sonographer of the department. (All staff are audited by the screening sonographer)

1g. Saturdays

1h. The Trust is applying Section 43(2) FOIA which provides an exemption from disclosure of information which would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

This is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

The Trust believes that the information requested contains details which would be likely to damage the companies ability to win new business opportunities for their services and to perform them within a commercially competitive market.

The Trust has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption, and therefore protecting the commercial interests of the suppliers and preserving its ability to compete fairly in a commercial market, outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this case.

#### Supplier Transactions

All NHS bodies are required to publish details of individual invoices and transactions that are over £25,000. This is in response to guidance from HM Treasury which sets out the scope of the data. Details can be found on our website using the following link: [www.mtw.nhs.uk/about-us/our-quality-story/finance/](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk/about-us/our-quality-story/finance/)

2. Under Section 21 of the Act we are not required to provide information in response to a request if the information is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available from the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2021-22/>