

Freedom of Information request 015078 - Pharmacy

20/11/19

I would like information about the provider of pharmacy services to the hospitals in your trust.  
Could you please provide the following information, by hospital:

1. Are the pharmacy services in-house or outsourced? - In house, with one exception for outsourced monitored dose box service. The latter subject to OJEU tender procurement process. (proceed to Section I if in-house and Section II if outsourced). If part of the services are in-house (tendered through the Department of Health / NHS frameworks) and part outsourced (for example for outpatients), please answer both parts.

2. Who are your suppliers for: - varies as per CMU awarded contracts and medicines supply chain / shortages

2.1. Clozapine (antipsychotic)

2.2. Fluoxetine (antidepressant)

2.3. Lithium carbonate (anticonvulsant)

### **Section I – in-house pharmacy**

1. Did the trust tender through the Department of Health's Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU)? - Yes

a. If not, tendered through CMU: - N/A

i. How did the trust / hospital tender? - N/A

ii. Who applied to fill the tender? - N/A

iii. What were the tender criteria? - N/A

iv. Why was the chosen supplier awarded the contract? - N/A

v. Is the chosen supplier the trust's de-facto supplier? - N/A

vi. What is the annual cost of the contract? - N/A

b. If tendered through CMU:

i. How many suppliers are engaged with the hospitals to provide pharmaceuticals? - 198 medicine suppliers for DGNHSFT

ii. On average, what discounts does the supplier offer vs. the retail price? - The level of competition currently experienced within the NHS is such that the release of detailed information specifically relating to actual hospital costs would have a prejudicial impact on the Trust and would weaken the Trust's position in a competitive environment revealing market-sensitive information with potential usefulness to its competitors. Therefore the Trust wishes to use Freedom of Information exemption section 43 (2) Commercial Interests (where Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)).

2. Delivery of pharmaceuticals:

a. How often do you get deliveries from pharmaceutical suppliers? - Varies each day (approx. 15 deliveries)

b. Is the delivery a fixed amount of each contracted drug or is it based on the hospital's stock of the drug i.e. more frequently used drugs are delivered in larger quantities and more frequently by the supplier? - The ordering & delivery quantity is based on usage maintained by the specialist pharmacy stock control system and manually overridden when necessary

c. Is the stock of each drug monitored manually on an Excel sheet or electronically via a specialised software? - Stock levels are maintained electronically using specialist pharmacy stock control and dispensing software systems.

i. If monitored by specialist software, who is the provider of said software? - The names of systems and suppliers have not been released, Exemption (43) has been applied given it is commercially sensitive in that providing this information may compromise information security. It is imperative that the Trust is cyber resilient, cyber-attacks against infrastructure have the potential to inflict significant, real-life disruption and prevent access to critical services that are vital to the functioning of Trust systems.  
If release of information could potentially damage the Trust's IT systems this information will not be released.

3. Current provider:

a. Has / have the current providers always been the suppliers of pharmaceuticals for the hospital for more than 3 years? - See response to question 2

i. If not, who was the previous supplier? -

ii. Why were the old supplier's contract not renewed? -

## **Section II – Outsourced pharmacy -**

1. Current provider:

a. Who is the current provider of your outsourced pharmacy services? - See response to question 1

b. Are they the de-facto provider for all pharmaceutical needs? - See response to question 1

If not, could you list the other providers? - See response to question 1

c. How did the hospital contract the current provider? - OJEU tender procurement process

i. What is the duration of the contract? - 3 years

ii. What were the key terms of the contract that the supplier had to meet? - As per tender specification

iii. How many suppliers applied for the contract? - three

iv. Has / have the current providers always been the suppliers of pharmaceuticals for the hospital for more than 3 years? - Yes

1. If not, who was the previous supplier? - N/A

2. Why were the old supplier's contract not renewed? - N/A

d. On average, what discounts does the supplier offer vs. the retail price? - The level of competition currently experienced within the NHS is such that the release of detailed information specifically relating to actual hospital costs would have a prejudicial impact on the Trust and would weaken the Trust's position in a competitive environment revealing market-sensitive information with potential usefulness to its competitors. Therefore the Trust wishes to use Freedom of Information exemption section 43 (2) Commercial Interests (where Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

e. How often do you get deliveries from pharmaceutical suppliers? -  
See response to Section I – in-house pharmacy question 2a

f. Is the delivery a fixed amount of each contracted drug or is it based on the hospital's stock of the drug i.e. more frequently used drugs are delivered in larger quantities and more frequently by the supplier? -

See response to Section I – in-house pharmacy question 2b

g. Is the stock of each drug monitored manually on an Excel sheet or electronically via specialised software? -

See response to Section I – in-house pharmacy question 2

i. If monitored by specialist software, who is the provider of said software? -  
See response to Section I – in-house pharmacy question 2