

## Electrocardiogram EKG, ECG, ECH Holter

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Reference Number: RDF2200-24

Date of Response: 29/01/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information on your Trust's usage of ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitors and associated software for analysis reporting.*

*Specifically, could you please provide answers to the following questions:*

- 1. Does the Trust use ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitors? (Yes or No)*

Answer: Yes.

- 2. 1(i) If "Yes" then which make and models are currently in use and how many of each are currently deployed?*

Answer: Royal Devon Northern Services - Spacelab Sentinel Lifecard, x 50 and Eclipse Pro x 12. Novocor R test. x10. Royal Devon Eastern Services - Spacelabs Lifecard CF x 40 and Eclipse x 30.

- 3. 1(ii) If "No" then does the Trust intend to implement ambulatory electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) Holter monitoring in the near future? (Yes or No)*

Answer: Not applicable.

- 4. Does the Trust use software to read EDF reports? If ""Yes"" then which vendor(s) are used?*

Answer: No.

- 5. Does the Trust use an external ECG Interpretation Provider. If ""Yes"" then which vendor(s) are used?*

Answer: No.

- 6. How many ambulatory electrocardiogram ECG readings does the Trust perform each year?*

Answer: 5,168 for the date range 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

- 7. What is the split of the ambulatory ECG reading volumes in question 5, by length of recording? (e.g. 24hr, 48h, 72h, 7-day, 14-day)*

Answer: Not applicable.

- 8. In what environment are the ambulatory ECG holters fitted? (e.g. secondary care, community diagnostic centre [CDC], primary care)*

Answer: Secondary care - hospital.

9. *What is your preferred buying method for these devices? (e.g. Direct, Supply Chain, Other)*

Answer: Northern Services - previously direct through a Framework and capital funded. Eastern Services – Direct.

10. *How much did the Trust pay for its currently deployed ECG Holter devices and software (per device), and what costs are associated with maintenance, such as battery replacement, servicing etc?*

Answer: The Trust holds this information. This information is commercially sensitive and its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

In applying the exemption under Section 43(2) the Freedom of Information Act the Trust has balanced the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The Trust has considered all the relevant factors in the public interest test and concluded that the benefit to the public in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in releasing the information requested as a result of the prejudices and losses that would potentially affect the Trust and patients. As such this information is being withheld under Section 43 (2).

Excluded under Section 43 because releasing the costs of contracts would give potential suppliers an unfair advantage over other bidders when bidding for future work. That advantage would contravene the principle of fairness required from the Trust in Regulation 18 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The release of contract values would also undermine the Trust's suppliers' competitiveness in the market and breach the Trust's contracts with suppliers, which typically require contract values to be kept confidential.

11. *Does the Trust have service contracts for the currently deployed ambulatory ECG devices. If so, how much is this per annum for the different brand of devices by vendor(s)?*

Answer: No.

12. *How many ambulatory ECG monitors did the Trust purchase in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 per make and model of Holter monitor?*

Answer: Please see table below.

|  | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b>                | <b>2022</b> | <b>2023</b> |
|--|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Royal Devon<br/>Northern Services</i> | Nil         | Lifecard x10<br>R.Test x12 | Nil         | Nil         |
| <i>Royal Devon<br/>Eastern Services</i>  | Lifecard x2 | Lifecard x6                | Nil         | Lifecard x6 |

13. *What is the Trust's wait time for ambulatory ECG Holter Fittings and ECG reporting?*

Answer: 6 to 12 weeks for routine wait to be fitted and 1 to 2 weeks to analyse, urgent is 48 hours. The average wait time is 10.9 weeks wait from waiting list added date to result date (date range 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023).

*14. Is the Trust meeting their targets for ambulatory ECG recording volumes and patient waiting times? (Yes or No)*

Answer: No.

*15. What are the Trusts biggest challenges for cardiology ECG ambulatory recordings?*

Answer: Number of referrals, monitor numbers and staffing - funding.

*16. Is the Trust considering purchasing any new ambulatory ECG Holter monitors? For replacement of old devices, broken devices, or needing more equipment?*

Answer: No, not currently.

*17. Who is the Trust's senior electrophysiologist or cardiology manager and what are their contact details? (Name, position, email, telephone)*

Answer: The Trust does not release the names of staff below a Director under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Personal Information, where disclosure may contravene the Data Protection Act 2018 and therefore applies an exemption under Section 40 (2) - Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Section 10 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

The Executive Director/s responsible for Cardiology: Dr Karen Davies - Medical Director for Royal Devon Eastern Services, Ms Cheryl Baldwick and Dr Gareth Moncaster currently share the role of Medical Director for our Royal Devon Northern Services. They are contactable via our main hospitals 01392 411611 (Eastern services) and 01271 322577 (Northern services) or via the Trust 'Contact Us' link on [royaldevon.nhs.uk](http://royaldevon.nhs.uk)

Where contact details are given for Trust staff in this response, notice is hereby given, under Section 11 of the Data Protection Act 2018, on behalf of the individual or individuals that this personal information may not be used for the purposes of direct marketing.