

Mortuary Temperature Monitoring

Reference Number: RDF2109-23

Date of Response: 05/12/23

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

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

1. *Could you please advise whether your Trust currently use any remote temperature monitoring solution with in your mortuary. If yes please advise*

Answer: Yes, in the Royal Devon's Northern Services.

2. *Who is the current supplier –*

Answer: Comark.

3. *When does the current contract expire –*

Answer: The contract is evergreen and is being considered for replacement by the internal monitoring arrangements used elsewhere in the Trust.

4. *How much per annum are you paying –*

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. 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 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.

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).

5. *Which department is responsible for maintaining the equipment –*

Answer: Pathology.