

Ground Maintenance at Newcourt House

Reference Number: RDF1477-23

Date of Response: 11/05/23

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).

To whom it may concern,

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you answer the following:

- 1. Who holds the contract for ground maintenance / landscaping of Newcourt House. It is my understanding that the Trust had employed a gardener for Newcourt and that instead of recruiting to replace the role the Trust now pays a contractor to only mow the lawns and cut the hedges?*

Answer: Since Newcourt House has been with the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, and not the Devon Partnership Trust (DPT), it has always been maintained by an external contractor and always through a tendering process. The incumbent contractor at present is BGS Landscape and Fencing.

- 2. If this is done by an external contractor please could you confirm the annual expense.*

Answer: 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).