

Translation & Interpretation Services

Reference Number: RDF1458-23

Date of Response: 11/05/2023

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).

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the translation and interpreting services, including BSL, used by the trust. Please could you provide the following information:

1. *Name of service provider or providers:* BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE ENABLING SERVICE, CHH INTERPRETING, LANGUAGELINE SOLUTIONS, MULTILINGUA DEVON CIC, SIGN SOLUTIONS SLIA LTD, TIM GRIFFIN INTERPRETING, WOLFENDEN CARON
2. *Copy of successful tender.* – The Trust does not hold this information.
3. *Final pricing of successful bidder.*
The Trust issues a refusal notice under section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act for the information requested in question 3. In doing so, the Trust applies the following exemption:

Section 43 (2).

This information is held by the Trust, however, 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:

Pro's in favour of release of this information:

- Openness and accountability for tender processes and prices
Obtaining value for money

*Cons in favour of **not** releasing this information:*

- This information should be Exempt from disclosure because it can be used to gain advantage over competitors in a procurement situation.
- If the information was to be released into the Public domain, it would give the requester and suppliers the price currently being paid for that service, giving an advantage over other bidders, which is prohibited under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

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).

4. *Where was this opportunity advertised?* – The Trust does not hold this information. The opportunity was not advertised.

5. *Expiry date of the current contract.* As follows:

Question 5 response - Supplier name	Eastern Contract Start - End	Northern Contract Start - End
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE ENABLING SERVICE	No contract	Not used
CHH INTERPRETING	No contract	Not used
CORNISH HILARY	No contract	Not used
LANGUAGELINE SOLUTIONS	1/4/2022 - 31/3/2025	1/4/2022 - 31/3/2025
MULTILINGUA DEVON CIC	1/4/2022 - 31/3/2025	1/4/2022 - 31/3/2025
SIGN SOLUTIONS SLIA LTD	Not used	No contract
TIM GRIFFIN INTERPRETING	No contract	Not used
WOLFENDEN CARON	No contract	Not used

The Trust is not able to respond to the following questions 6,7 and 8 as the information is not held by the Trust as the services had not been tendered.

6. *How many bidders submitted responses?*

7. *Name of all bidders who submitted responses.*

8. *Rank of all bidders who submitted responses*

9. *What was the contract value of all interpreting and translation services in 2022?*
- £173,329. (N and E)