27th July 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 200704.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

I would like to request the following information:

1. **Does your Trust have teams/departments that handle any of the following: Application/Software Development, Websites, Technical innovation? Yes/No, If Yes please name these teams/departments:**

   Yes, Software Development

2. **How many members are in these teams/departments? And what roles are the teams/departments made up of?**

   5 Members (IT Data Manager, BI &Software Developer, DBA, 2 BI developers)

3. **What technologies do the teams/departments use? For example: HTML5, C#, SQL, .NET Core 2.0**

   Section 31 applies where complying with the request would prejudice or would be likely to prejudice various law enforcement purposes (listed in the Act) including preventing crime, administering justice.

   The exemption in Section 31(1) is designed to cover all aspects of the prevention and detection of crime. Section 31 is a qualified exemption which means we must undertake a public interest test which is set out below in addition to explanations behind our engagement of this exemption.

   We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, and we recognise that releasing this information would provide the public with assurance that we are protecting our technologies. However, disclosure of the information requested could make the Trust more vulnerable to cyber-crime as it outlines the Trust's security posture which could be used as a starting point to attack network infrastructure and/or information systems.

Aspiring to be *better today* and even *better tomorrow*

It is in the public interest to disclose information that informs the public of how we spend our money, especially where this relates to the provision of public services. There is also always a strong interest in disclosure from the Freedom of Information Act; in addition to our Trust's commitment to transparency and openness. However, while we strive to be transparent, we must also consider the importance of our duty to provide the public with quality and value for money services. As a result of this duty, and the risk of potential prejudice to it posed by the various reasons laid out above, we believe the interest in withholding this information outweighs that for disclosure. We therefore find that the section 31(1) exemption is appropriately engaged and hope that the information we have provided in response to the rest of the request assists you.

4. **Are the developments of the teams/departments open source? Yes/No, If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**

   No

5. **What software methodology do the teams/departments use?**

   Agile Methodology

6. **Do the teams/departments develop front facing service user websites/apps? Yes/No, If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**

   Intranet applications for trust users

7. **Do the teams/departments work with clinical staff to formulate any innovative ideas they may have? Yes/No, If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**

   No

8. **Have the teams/departments ever gone for external tenders for healthcare system developments? Yes/No, If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**

   No

9. **Have the teams/departments ever done developments for other trusts/external entities? Yes/No, If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**

   Yes, API data feeds

10. **Have the teams/departments ever sold a development it has produced commercially? Yes/No, If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**

    No

11. **Have the teams/departments ever attempted to secure an innovation grant? Yes/No If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**

    No

12. **Were the teams/departments used during the COVID-19 crisis? Yes/No If Yes, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this. If No, why wasn't it used?**

    Yes, for developing application for Co-vid Hub

13. **Does your service provide mental health services? Yes/No If Yes, have the teams/departments been involved in developing these digitally/online?**

    No

14. **Do the teams/departments feel they have good visibility within the Trust regarding the services they can offer? Yes/No, please give any details you may be able to disclose regarding this.**

    Please be advised that the Act gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. We are not required to create new information to respond to a request or give a judgement or opinion that is not already recorded. As your request is asking a hypothetical question it falls outside the scope of the Act.

    It would be helpful if you were to provide any brief notes which might be necessary to understand the context of the information provided, although I recognise that you are not obliged to do this

    N/A

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust