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5<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Internal Ref: 260210  
Email:

Dear ,

The trust acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, referenced above. Please ensure you quote this number in any future correspondence.

### **FOI Request**

Please can you provide the following details for all current and recently expired contracts (within the last five years, if available):

1. A description of the goods and/or services provided (e.g. servers, storage, networking equipment, associated support or maintenance).
2. The supplier(s) or incumbent provider(s) for each contract.
3. The contract value (total contract value and, where applicable, annual value).
4. The contract start date and expiry date, including any extension options.
5. The route(s) to market used to procure the contract (e.g. specific framework agreement, direct award, open tender).
6. The name of the framework(s) used, where applicable.

If this information is held in a register or database, we would be happy to receive it in spreadsheet or table format.

### **Formal Response**

The Trust holds information within scope of your request relating to its Information and Communications Technology (ICT) contracts. Following careful consideration, the Trust has decided to withhold some, but not all, of the information requested, as set out below.



**1. A description of the goods and/or services provided (e.g. servers, storage, networking equipment, associated support or maintenance).**

Under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust has applied an exemption to detailed descriptions of ICT goods and services which, if disclosed, would provide insight into the Trust's digital infrastructure, system capabilities, and technical dependencies.

The Trust considers that disclosure of this level of technical detail would be likely to increase the risk of cyber-enabled crime, including unauthorised access, system disruption, or the exploitation of vulnerabilities. As an emergency service organisation, the Trust is a recognised target for malicious activity, and disclosure of sensitive ICT information would be likely to assist individuals seeking to identify or exploit weaknesses within its systems.

The Trust has considered the public interest in transparency but concluded that this is outweighed by the strong public interest in maintaining the security and resilience of systems that support critical emergency services.

This exemption has not been applied to high-level, non-technical information where disclosure would not give rise to such risks.

**2. The supplier(s) or incumbent provider(s) for each contract.**

The Trust has applied exemption under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to supplier-specific information. The Trust considers that releasing supplier-specific pricing and contractual arrangements would be likely to distort future competition, weaken the Trust's negotiating position, and adversely affect suppliers operating in a competitive market.

The exemption has been applied on a case-by-case basis, taking account of the age and sensitivity of the information. Supplier names have been withheld because disclosure, in the context of the remaining information, would allow competitors to infer pricing structures or procurement strategy.

The Trust has considered the public interest in transparency but concluded that this is outweighed by the public interest in protecting fair competition and ensuring value for money for public funds.

**3. The contract value (total contract value and, where applicable, annual value).**

The Trust has applied exemption under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to information relating to contract values, including total and annual values.

This exemption has been applied where contracts are current or recently expired and where disclosure would be likely to undermine the Trust's commercial position in

future procurement exercises or prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of suppliers operating in a competitive market.

The Trust has considered the public interest in transparency but concluded that this is outweighed by the public interest in protecting fair competition and ensuring that the Trust is able to secure value for money for public funds.

#### **4. The contract start date and expiry date, including any extension options.**

The Trust has considered whether contract start and end dates, including extension options, could be disclosed independently. However, where contract dates are closely linked to sensitive supplier information and contract values, the Trust considers that disclosure would contribute to a broader understanding of its ICT contractual landscape.

In this context, disclosure would be likely to increase the risk of cyber-enabled crime by enabling the mapping of systems, supplier dependencies, and contract lifecycles (section 31(1)(a)), and would also be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust and its suppliers by revealing procurement and negotiation strategies (section 43(2)).

The Trust has considered the public interest in transparency but concluded that this is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the security and resilience of its ICT systems and protecting fair competition and value for money.

Accordingly, contract dates have been withheld where necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the exemptions applied.

#### **5. The route(s) to market used to procure the contract (e.g. specific framework agreement, direct award, open tender).**

#### **6. The name of the framework(s) used, where applicable.**

Hardware is procured following Trust [Standing Financial Instructions](#) and where applicable, frameworks are used such as; NOE CPC Total Technology Solutions.

All purchases will include licensing (as required) and a vendor warranty/support package. For higher-value items, warranties and support are typically procured for extended periods and managed in line with asset lifecycle and end-of-life considerations.

### **Next steps**

Please note you will be able to source a lot of information which is made available on our website.

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance, via the following email address: [FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

You can ask us to review our original response. If you would like us to carry out an internal review, please let us know within 40 working days of you receiving our original response. This review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer.

We will endeavour to complete this request within 20 working days.

Should you remain dissatisfied then you can contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](https://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints) (ICO). Complaints to the ICO should be made within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](https://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints).

Alternatively, the ICO's postal address is:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

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



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