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BN7 2XW

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20th June 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/05/26.

You requested the following information:

Can you please confirm the following in relation to the Trust's Financial and Accounting services (processing of accounts payable and accounts receivable invoices etc.):

1) Who is the Trust's service provider (in-house or 3rd party provider)?

The Trust's Financial and Accounting Services is outsourced to a 3rd party provider.

a. If outsourced to a 3rd party provider, what is the name of the service provider you use?

The 3rd Party provider for our Accounts Payable and management of our accounting software is NHS Shared Business Services (<http://www.sbs.nhs.uk/home>)

b. If outsourced to a 3rd party provider, how long did the transition to the service provider take?

No longer than three months.

c. If outsourced to a 3rd party provider, was the transition fee paid prior to the service start date and what was the transition price paid?

Due to the fact that this transition took place almost ten years ago and staffing changes within our Finance department, we do not hold this information.

d. If outsourced to a 3rd party provider, what is the value of the service contract per annum?

I have to advise that I am unable to provide any further information on the basis of the exemption contained within s43 (2) of the FOI Act (Commercial Interests). The Trust accepts that there is a

public interest in how public money is spent; however there is also a need to withhold information that would prejudice the commercial interest of the Trust and/ or third parties. In assessing the public interest, the Trust takes the view that this would be the case in this instance. The Trust considers that this information, in conjunction with other information that might already or will be in the public domain, could lead to the commercial interests of the Trust together with the companies we use being adversely affected.

e. If outsourced to a 3rd party provider, when did the contract start and when is the contract due to expire?

The contract started in April 2007 and was recently extended for a further two years.

f. If outsourced to a 3rd party provider, is the Trust's intention to re-procure these services through a Trust run OJEU procurement exercise when the current contract expires?

The Freedom of Information Act provides access to recorded information held by public authorities. The information you are requesting is not available as it relates to a decision to be made in the future; therefore we are unable to provide it.

i. If not, what is the route through which you will contract these services?

Not applicable

g. If the Trust provides these services in-house, does the Trust intend to investigate outsourcing these services in the next 12 months?

Not applicable

2) What is the volume of Accounts Payable invoices processed per annum by the Trust?

27,684 Invoices for the last 12 months (May 2015 to April 2016)

3) What is the volume of Accounts Receivable invoices processed per annum by the Trust?

1,969 invoices for the last 12 months (May 2015 to April 2016)

4) What is the accounting software that the Trust uses?

Oracle Financials

I hope you find this information helpful.

If, for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response, you are entitled to pursue any dissatisfaction through South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust's (SECAmb) Internal Review Procedure at:

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
40-42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW
Email:complaints@secamb.nhs.uk

Should you remain unhappy with the outcome of any such internal review , you may request a decision from the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

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