

## Freedom of Information Request

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**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.19.1327  
**Date Received:** 13 November 2019

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### Information Requested:

I am researching the use of clinical decision support systems used in NHS Trusts. As such I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

To assist you, what I mean by clinical decision support systems, these are stand alone or integrated software which helps clinical staff make safe decisions and take appropriate action. They can be algorithms, care plans, clinical referencing, or clinical condition specific guidelines which incorporate treatment or decision making.

Proprietary examples include:

- BestPractice (BMJ)
  - ClinicalKey, ExpertPath, STATdx, Arezzo (Elsevier)
  - DXS
  - DynaMed, DynaMed Plus, Isabel (EBSCO)
  - First DataBank, Zynx (Hearst)
  - IBM Watson, Micromedex (IBM)
  - iRefer (MedCurrent)
  - MedicinesComplete (BNF)
  - Provation
  - LexiComp, UpToDate (WoltersKluwer)
  - ThinkResearch (ThinkResearch Corporation)

To assist me with my research, could you please give me the following information please:

1. Does the trust operate any clinical decision support systems (examples above)
  - If so, which ones?
2. What is the cost of licences (and any other support) the Trust paid on clinical decision support systems in the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19
3. Has the trust developed their own electronic clinical decision support system(s)?
4. If so, what were the WTE and total funding costs incurred in development of their own clinical decision support system(s) for the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively
5. What was the Trusts' total operating budget for financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively

The Trust is unable to provide the information requested as this would require a manual trawl of records and exceed the time and cost limits, as set out in the Act. The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act\* (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit)

**Exemption: Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit):**

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
  - (a) by one person, or
  - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated

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**Publication Scheme:**

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT’s Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>