

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: [EPUT.FOI.24.3618](#)
Date Received: [11 July 2024](#)

Information Requested:

1. Do you use virtual wards in your Trust? (Y/N)
If not, are you planning on using them in the future?

The Trust believes that this information is publicly available on the [*EPUT.FOI.24.3520*](#) website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means):

2. Please provide the total number of virtual ward bed capacity

[Please see response to Q1 above](#)

3. Please provide a list of virtual ward providers used in your Trust, as well as the following for each provider:

- I. Total contract value, split by the following:
- II. Technology component

[The Trust is unable to provide a breakdown as this information is held by the ICB.](#)

- III. Staffing component

[The Trust is unable to provide a breakdown as this information is held by the ICB.](#)

- IV. Others – please specify

[N/A](#)

- a. Start and end date

[Please see response to Q1 above](#)

- b. For 2024, the number of virtual ward bed capacity provided

[Please see response to Q1 above](#)

Response

The Trust believes that this information is publicly available on the [*EPUT.FOI.24.3520*](#) website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means):

Section 21: Information accessible to applicant by other means.

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

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>