



## Freedom of Information request & West Norfolk CCG response

### WN-2017-00089 – IT Annual Spend

Categories		Actual spend FY 2015-16		Actual spend FY 2016-17		Projected spend FY 2017-18	
		Rev (£)	Cap (£)	Rev (£)	Cap (£)	Rev (£)	Cap (£)
	<b>Total IT spend (A + B + C + D + E + F)</b>						
A	Total organisational spend on software (clinical and business related software, office and admin software including licences but excluding implementation and support)						
B	Total organisational spend on IT services and support						
C	Total organisational spend on in-house IM&T staff (excluding spend on outsourcing services)						
D	Total organisational spend on hardware						
E	Total organisational spend on communications						
F	Other ICT spend (this will include ICT spend which is not captured in above mentioned categories, like other ICT charges, costs related to running services for other NHS bodies, Medical devices, POC testing, etc.)						

NHS West Norfolk CCG confirm the annual spend with NEL CSU for IT services is as follows:  
 2015/16 = £7k and 113k on GP IT Services  
 2016/17 = £15k and 113k on GP IT Services

*NHS West Norfolk CCGs IT function is provided by NEL Commissioning Support Unit (NEL CSU) through a service specification contained within a signed Service Level Agreement. This is a fully managed service and does not break down data cost centres. The CCG (nor NEL CSU) are unable to break this down into the requirements you have requested.*

*In respect to the projected spend for 2017/18, the CCG confirms it holds the information requested but are withholding it under section 43(2) of the FOIA 2000. Section 43 of the Act provides an exemption for information, the disclosure of which would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the interests of a public authorities, such as CCGs). The CCG are currently in a procurement process for this service and the release of this information is likely to jeopardise the process.*

*The Information Commissioner's relevant guidance states that:*

*"...a commercial interest relates to a person's ability to participate competitively in a commercial activity, i.e. the purchase and sale of goods or services"*

*It is considered that the commercial interests of the CCG would be prejudiced. Disclosure would be likely to damage the CCG's ability to commission best value for services. The CCG are currently going through a full procurement for this service; having information such as contract values in the public domain is likely to be detrimental to us securing the best finance/quality balance going forward.*

*As this is a qualified exemption we must consider whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.*

*Factors in favour of disclosure of the information are as follows:*

- 1. Furthering the understanding of and participation in the public debate of issues of the day.*
- 2. Promoting accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them and in the spending of public money.*
- 3. Allowing individuals and companies to understand decisions made by public authorities affecting their lives.*

*Factors in favour of non-disclosure are as follows:*

- 1. The CCG would be unable to attract best value for services for future procurement decisions as there would be less incentive for providers to bid.*
- 2. Disclosure of the withheld information into the public domain could endanger true and fair competition.*
- 3. It is in the public interest for the CCG to be able to attain best value for services using public funds.*

*The CCG considers that there is a public interest in disclosure of the withheld information as it promotes openness and transparency around surrounding public spending within the NHS. However, the CCG does not consider that it would be in the public interest to jeopardise the ongoing procurement process.*

*On balance the CCG considers that the public interest in favour of disclosure is outweighed by the public interest in favour of maintaining the exemption in this case. Section 43(2) FOIA was therefore correctly applied to withhold the requested information.*