



**The Clatterbridge  
Cancer Centre**  
NHS Foundation Trust

Clatterbridge Road  
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Wirral  
CH63 4JY

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Date: 14 August 2020

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**  
**Ref: 154- 2020**

Thank you for your email dated the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020, requesting information in relation to cleaning contracts & PPE.

The information that you require is as follows:

- 1. Is your cleaning managed in-house or outsourced to a private contractor?**  
**The Trust's cleaning is outsourced**

***(If in-house, please respond to questions 2-4, if outsourced, please respond to questions 5-7)***

- 2. What PPE do you provide to cleaners?**  
**Not Applicable**
- 3. What training do you provide to cleaners on doffing and donning PPE?**  
**Not Applicable**
- 4. Do you collect data on PPE's failure to protect cleaners? Is this data broken down by sex and ethnicity of the cleaners? Can you provide this data?**  
**Not Applicable**
- 5. To whom is your cleaning outsourced?**  
**Cleaning is outsourced to Clatterbridge PropCare Services Ltd**

**6. Can you provide a copy of the contract you have with them?**

We have carefully considered your request and although we hold the information we have concluded that we will not be able to provide you with the information you have requested and we will rely on the exemption under Section 43(2) – Prejudice to commercial interests of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

Section 43(2) of the Act provides that information is exempt from disclosure if the information would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). One of the provisions of Section 43 relates to the disclosure of information where such disclosure might have an adverse effect on procurement and own commercial interests.

The Trust, as a public body is mindful that in order to engage this exemption we must demonstrate that disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice or harm the commercial interests of any person (this can include the public authority holding it).

The term “would ... prejudice” has been defined as it is more likely than not to occur whereas “would likely.... prejudice” is a lower threshold. The Trust has applied the prejudice test under Section 43 and we are content that the requirements of the test have been met.

Having reached the conclusion that the prejudice test has been met, we have also considered whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**Public Interest Test**

**Factors favouring disclosure**

- The Trust recognises that there is a public interest in the disclosure of information which facilitates the accountability and transparency of public bodies for decisions.
- Disclosure of the information may give assurances to the public that the Trust’s outsourced cleaners have access to suitable PPE and receive correct training.

### Factors in favour of non-disclosure

- There is a public interest in the Trust being able to work within competitive markets where that results in a financial or resource benefit.
- The application of the Freedom of Information Act should not prejudice the fair operation of commercial markets and that suppliers should not face undue risks of harm from doing business with the NHS by disclosure of information.
- Disclosure of the information would restrict the submission of truly competitive bids in future tender processes and impact on the Trust's ability to obtain best quality of service through fair competition.

Having carefully considered the public interest test we have concluded that there is a strong public interest in maintaining the fair and proper operation of commercial markets for both suppliers and the Trust.

Taking the above into consideration, having applied the necessary, relevant tests and taking all the current circumstances into consideration we are content that the requirements of all necessary and relevant tests have been met and the application of the exemption under Section 43(2) is appropriate on this occasion.

**7. Has this contract been amended in any way that affects the provision of PPE or training in the use of PPE for hospital cleaners since February 1, 2020? If so, how?**

There has been no contractual change that affects the provision of PPE or training in the use of PPE for hospital cleaners since February 1, 2020. The Trust expects its suppliers to adhere to current Trust Policies and Procedures, which includes Infection Prevention & Control.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on the email address provided below.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for this to be investigated internally.

If you are dissatisfied with the information you have received, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Both processes will be handled in accordance with our Trust's Freedom of Information Policy and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Internal investigation and internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Freedom of Information Review, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 4JY

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal investigation/review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.