

NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Breast Imaging Equipment Replacement

Replacement of Breast Mammography Equipment is a result of a recommendation from a QARC (PHA Quality Assurance Reference Centre) inspection in November 2014 that two obsolete mammography machines in the Antrim Breast Imaging Unit are replaced as a service priority.

The machines provide x-ray mammograms for the breast symptomatic service, essential for the diagnosis of cancer and other breast conditions.

The current obsolete equipment does not provide the full range of imaging techniques required for accurate location and diagnosis of breast lesions.

The equipment delivers high radiation doses compared to modern equivalents. The image quality, whilst clinically adequate, is relatively poor compared to modern machines.

There is an increased frequency of faults and breakdowns with the aging units, leading to increasing servicing and maintenance costs.

The DHSSPSNI Health Engineering Investment Group is supporting the case to replace the equipment.

The Outline Business Case has been agreed by the Trust's Executive Team.

The capital slippage bid made by Capital Development Team for £460k has been successful to cover procurement, installation and commissioning of the two replacement machines

The revenue costs of new units are cost neutral compared to current costs.

The new equipment is the NHS Breast Screening Service preferred provider for mammography imaging and supports specialist examinations (stereo-taxis and tomo-synthesis).

The BSO Procedure and Logistics Service have advised that equipment will be ordered off NHS supply chain without the need to complete mini tender.

Delivery, installation, commissioning and receipting of the equipment will be completed before end of March 15.

The replacement of the fixed units completes the total digitisation of NHSCT breast screening and symptomatic equipment in 14/15.

Trust Board approval is sought for the purchase of this equipment.