

Freedom of Information Request

1. Who is responsible for your Windows 10 desktop migration? Name/Role and contact details if available.

The contact is Manager.ICTServiceDesk@northerntrust.hscni.net

2. How many end users do you have across the Trust?

13000

3. How many Windows end point devices do you have?

8000

4. Approximately what % are running on Windows 7?

20% (With extended support)

5. Does the Trust still use Java and Internet Explore based applications?

The Northern H&SC Trust considers that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 38 (Health and Safety), of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 38 permits the withholding of information if there is a risk to Health and Safety of Individuals. To withhold there must be a likelihood of endangerment to the physical or mental health of any individual.

Due to recent security attacks on NHS Trusts across the UK, the Trust believes the release of the requested information could be used (either as is or in conjunction with other information obtained from the Trust) in the assessment of the Trust's ICT defences to resist a security attack.

As a security attack may lead to the placing of patient and client information into the public domain, the release of the requested information could potentially lead to harm for a number of patients (in a mental health context or may lead to physical harm). Therefore, the Trust is applying the Health and Safety Exemption.

The Trust believes there is a link between the risk endangerment for data subjects and the disclosure of the requested information. There would likely be a substantial detrimental effect on the physical or mental health of patients and clients, should the requested information be released.

Recent security attacks on NHS Trusts have shown the threat to be real and likely to happen again. Therefore the Trust believes there is a likelihood of endangerment arising from the release of the requested information.

Section 38 is a qualified exemption. This means that the Trust has a duty to consider whether the disclosure should nevertheless be made in the public interest and must outline the Public interest/endangerment test.

The Trust considered any public interest factors which would influence the application of the exemption. The Trust has balanced the factors for release:

- There may be a public interest in providing this information in terms of accountability with public funds.
- In the interests of openness, transparency and accountability for how The Trust safeguards patient data and uses its resources.

Against the factors for withholding the information:

- The potential damage and cost to repair ICT systems as a consequence of a security attack.
- An attack would likely endanger or lead to a potential loss of sensitive personal information.
- The public expectation of the Trust's ability to keep their personal information confidential and secure.
- The potential to make patient/client personal information more vulnerable to an attack by releasing anti-virus vendor details.
- The Trust's duty under Data Protection Act 2018 to safeguard patient information.

On balance, the Public Interest Test is weighted towards the application of the exemption.

6. Is the Trust Cyber Essentials Plus accredited?

No

7. Does the Trust have devices that still require Windows 7 technology to work such as scanners and printers?

Yes

8. Who is responsible for IT Security? Name / Role and contact details if available.

The contact is ict.security@northerntrust.hscni.net