

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2021.808
Released – 17 May 2021**

Thank you for your email dated 3 May 2021 requesting information regarding finance software.

Please find detailed below a summary of your original request together with our response.

Original request:

The organisation's primary corporate Finance Software Solution:

For example, Agresso, Integra, Sapphire Systems; software of this nature.

1. *Name of Supplier: Can you please provide me with the software provider for each contract?*

Unit4 Business Software Ltd

2. *The brand of the software: Can you please provide me with the actual name of the software. Please do not provide me with the supplier name again please provide me with the actual software name.*

Unit4 ERP

3. *Description of the contract: Can you please provide me with detailed information about this contract and please state if upgrade, maintenance and support is included.*

Please also list the software modules included in these contracts.

The contract with Unit4 includes UK Product support, application support and bespoke support for products which have been specifically written for us. The contract also includes upgrades.

Modules:

- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Fixed Assets
- Contract Accounting
- Bank Reconciliation
- Purchasing
- Sales Orders
- Inventory Management
- Planner

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

4. Number of Users/Licenses: What is the total number of user/licenses for this contract?

Unlimited web user licence
Site licence for desktop licences

5. Annual Spend: What is the annual average spend for each contract?

We can confirm that we hold information relating to the average spend for this contract; however we feel that this information is considered to be commercially sensitive information that could be beneficial to competitors and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 43(2) is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption which requires that I provide evidence of harm in disclosure and a public interest test. I have included the relevant part of this exemption and the evidence of harm and public interest test below.

Section 43 – Commercial Interests

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information requested would be likely to damage the commercial interests of both the Trust and the company providing this service as it would assist competitors in the provision of this service.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of the information requested would contribute to the aims of openness and accountability which the Freedom of Information Act promotes. It would also show that there is transparency in the use of public funds and that public money is being used effectively.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The provision of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the existing provider and would affect the Trust's bargaining position during contractual negotiations should the contract be retendered, which would result in the less effective use of public money.

To release information relating to the existing provider would weaken their position in a competitive environment by revealing market-sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to competitors.

Balancing Test

Whilst we note that the provision of the information requested would ensure that we remain open and accountable, this is outweighed by the need for the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust to remain competitive with regards to proposed tenders and commercial activity and to protect the commercial interests of companies providing services to us.

6. Contract Duration: What is the duration of the contract please include any available extensions within the contract.

Contract is held by East Kent Hospitals NHS University Foundation Trust

7. Contract Start Date: What is the start date of this contract? Please include month and year of the contract. DD-MM-YY or MM-YY.

Unit4 contract start date 01/06/2001

8. Contract Expiry: What is the expiry date of this contract? Please include month and year of the contract. DD-MM-YY or MM-YY.

Contract is held by East Kent Hospitals NHS University Foundation Trust and reviewed annually

9. Contract Review Date: What is the review date of this contract? Please include month and year of the contract. If this cannot be provide please provide me estimates of when the contract is likely to be reviewed. DD-MM-YY or MM-YY.

Contract is held by East Kent Hospitals NHS University Foundation Trust and reviewed annually

10. Contact Details: I require the full contact details of the person within the organisation responsible for this particular software contract (name, job title, email, contact number).

It is Trust policy to not release names and contact details of staff below Executive Director Level as this constitutes personal information which is exempt under Section 40(2) in conjunction with Section 40(3A)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which relates to 'Personal Information'.

An excerpt of the relevant Freedom of Information legislation can be found below:

Section 40 – Personal information

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

(a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and

(b) either the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.

(3a) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act

(a) would contravene any of the data protection principles, or

(b) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

We can advise that the Director with overall responsibility for finance is Gordon Flack - Director of Finance and Deputy CEO, Gordon.Flack@nhs.net