

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_162_17

You asked:

1) How many computers (desktops and laptops) are owned by the health board?

I can confirm that Cwm Taf University Health Board is licensed to operate 6166 desktop devices.

2) How many of the computers (as specified in point 1) run using Microsoft Windows XP operating system?

Cwm Taf University Health Board has deemed that the information requested within question 2 of this request is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) and Section 38(1)(a)&(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

The UHB recognises its duty to protect the public and individuals, and we will not jeopardise this duty by providing this information, in our opinion, this would weaken our ability to protect our patients, staff and other service users. We have also considered the harm which will or will be likely to arise from the release of this information along with information already in the public domain.

Section 31(1)(a) of the Act provides that information which is not exempt by virtue of Section 30 (criminal investigations and proceedings) is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. In guidance, the Information Commissioner's Office has advised that Section 31 amongst other things, prevents information being disclosed that would increase the risk of the law being broken. In addition, it can be claimed by any public authority. The UHB is relying upon this exemption as it considers that releasing this information about our IT systems, would in the present climate, make it more vulnerable to crime.

Section 31 – Law Enforcement of the Act states that:

31(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice - (a) the prevention or detection of crime

Section 38(2) – Health and Safety of the Act – states that:

38(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to –

(a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or

(b) endanger the safety of any individual.

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, have either of the effects mentioned in subsection (1).

Therefore the UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs any arguments for disclosure, therefore protecting the UHB from potential criminal activity.