



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein Cyf/ Our ref ATISN 14584

December 2020

Dear

ATISN 14584 – Capital Automation Bids

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 24 November. You requested information regarding capital funding for automated systems to reconfigure community pharmacy prescriptions collection systems, specifically:

- 1. To provide a list of names of the pharmacies that received the grant and their location.*
- 2. A copy of each of the application forms of those pharmacies that will get the £25,000 grant.*

Our response

Welsh Government does hold information that falls into scope of your request and a list of pharmacies that have received a grant is listed below. This list was published via Community Pharmacy Wales' newsletter on 10 December 2020.

Approved Community Pharmacy Automation Projects 2020-21

- N-Pharma Ltd T/A Noott Pharmacy, Haverfordwest
- Mayberry Pharmacy Newport
- Tyr Felin Pharmacy, Gorseinon
- Nigel Williams Pharmacy Ltd, Cross Hands
- Hopwoods Pharmacy, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff
- MW Phillips Chemists, Llanishen, Cardiff
- Nelson's Pharmacy, Caerphilly
- Fferyllwyr Llyn Cyf T/A RJ Jones Pharmacy, Nefyn, Pwllheli

However, we are not disclosing copies of the application forms as they hold commercially sensitive information which will not only harm the procurement process but also prejudice the financial interests of the pharmacies who were successful in securing the grant and therefore exempt under Section 43(2) of the FOIA at this time. For further information, see **Annex 1**.

- Section 43(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).

Next steps



Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
● Health and Social Services Group
Parc Cathays ● Cathays Park
Caerdydd ● Cardiff ● CF10 3NQ

E-bost ● E-mail:
HSSBriefingsandMeeting@gov.wales

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
CARDIFF,
CF10 3NQ

Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
CHESHIRE,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Engagement of Section 43(2)

Section 43(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).

Officials have carefully considered all of the information captured by this request and consider that the information in question should be exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 43(2) is public interest exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under its provisions, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it.

Public interest arguments in favour of release

Release of this information would promote transparency of the content for each application for the grant. This may contribute to increase public understanding and accountability in this area.

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding

Application forms contains commercially sensitive information about each pharmacy which it is not considered appropriate to share or disclose, including details of costings negotiated with third party suppliers. The grant application process is a competitive process and sets out funding conditions and required criteria to meet. The release of commercially sensitive information will not only harm the procurement process but also prejudice the financial interests of the project and Ministers decision making.

Releasing completed grant application forms could have an impact on the grant process in the future and potentially be subject to challenge if any form of unfair advantage is perceived. This may cause potential harm to existing relationships and the successful delivery of the scheme.

Conclusion

We do not recognise that there is public interest argument for disclosure all grant application forms of those pharmacies that were successful in receiving the £25,000 grant and consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it in this instance.