

18 May 2022

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI/04187

Thank you for your request concerning automation in inventory management.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

Questions

1. Is artificial intelligence or robotics used anywhere within the hospital, if so where?

We do use AI for a Chatbot within our IAPT services; we also use RPA to automate some of our administrative processes

2. Inventory Management: Is artificial intelligence/ automation used within the hospital's inventory management system?

Yes

No

N/A

Other (please specify

No

**3. If you answered 'Yes' to question 2, what inventory management / automation system is deployed ? please provide the name of the developer or software.
(Please jump to question 6 if you did not answer 'Yes 'to question 2)**

4. To what extent did automation help during the early stages of the Covid 19 pandemic (Jan 2020- Dec 2020)

Extremely useful

Very useful

Somewhat useful

Not so useful

Not at all useful

Not applicable

Please provide more detail here:

5. To what extent did automation help during the Brexit transition period

Extremely useful

Very useful

Somewhat useful

Not so useful

Not at all useful

Not applicable

Please provide more detail here:

6. Were any lessons learnt on improving inventory management as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic or Brexit?

There were no particular lessons learned from either Brexit or Covid-19 as relates to these specific questions.

HPFT is a Mental Health and Specialist Learning Disabilities Trust across many sites in 4 counties, as such we do not have "hospital inventory", rather stocks of items regularly used across a number of sites.

We utilise the services of the Herts and West Essex Procurement Hub, operated by West Herts Hospitals Trust, on behalf of the local HWE ICS. As part of this arrangement they may be able to better answer questions on inventory.

7. Where is hospital inventory stored?

PPE needed as the result of the Pandemic is allocated and supplied nationally and not procured by the Trust. We have local recording systems utilising Microsoft Office products to keep track of PPE stocks which are stored on a number of sites.

8. How is unwanted inventory disposed of?

Please see the answer to question 6. Inventory is not recorded in a way that would allow us to provide this information.

9. May we contact you to learn more about your inventory management system? If yes, please provide an email address and a contact name

All our management contact details can be obtained through [Binley's Database of NHS Management¹](#).

10. Name of Trust

Please see headed paper.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

**Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

¹ Section 21 – Information is available through other means

