FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

REF: 2026-166
Subject: Public Procurement Challenges and Direct Awards (FY24/25, FY25/26)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email dated **25/02/2026** where you requested information about **Public Procurement Challenges and Direct Awards (FY24/25, FY25/26).**

The information you requested is enclosed.

Question	Answer
1. Can you advise how many competitive procurements your organisation has *commenced or advertised*:	
o Under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) for the period 1 April 2024 to 25 October 2024 inclusive?	No above threshold none framework advertised
o Under the Procurement Act 2023 / Public Sector Regulations 2024 (PA 2023/PSR 2024) for the period 26 October 2024 to 25 February 2026 inclusive?	No above threshold none framework advertised
o *Planned or forecasted* under PA 2023/PSR 2024 for the full fiscal year 2025/2026 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)?	No above threshold none framework advertised
2. Of those procurements *commenced or advertised* between 1 April 2024 and 25 February 2026, how many were *formally challenged*?	None
3. Of those formally challenged procurements:	
a. How many went into an extended standstill period (i.e., above the standard 10 calendar days under PCR 2015, or above the standard 8 working days under PA 2023/PSR 2024)? Please list the extended period in working days against each relevant tender.	N/A
b. How many were withdrawn as a result of the challenge?	None

c. How many were taken to a formal independent panel or court (e.g., the Independent Review Body under PA 2023, or judicial review under PCR 2015)?	None
4. For those taken to an independent panel or court (as per question 3):	
a. What was the outcome? Please state whether: a) the decision to award was supported; b) the award was withdrawn and procurement reissued; or c) other (please specify).	N/A
5. Of those challenged procurements, how many did your organisation then abandon and proceed to a *direct award* for the same or substantially similar goods, services, or works?	N/A
6. How many *direct awards* (i.e., contracts awarded without a competitive process, using an exemption or derogation) has your organisation undertaken:	
o For the period 1 April 2024 to 25 October 2024 inclusive?	None
o For the period 26 October 2024 to 25 February 2026 inclusive?	1 – Radiology managed service 2 year contract extension whilst procurement process is undertaken
o *Planned or forecasted* for the full fiscal year 2025/2026 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)?	None

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Department. It would be helpful to quote the above reference number in any future communication.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to The Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, The Royal Bolton Hospital, Minerva Road, Farnworth, Bolton. BL4 0JR.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The

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

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Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Department

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transforming lives...for a better Bolton

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