

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2425/442  
**From:** Commercial  
**Date:** 07 November 2024  
**Subject:** Inventory Management Systems (IMS)

Inventory Management Systems (IMSs) are digital solutions designed to track, manage, and optimise the inventory of clinical supplies within healthcare settings, such as NHS Trusts. An IMS provides real-time visibility over a range of supplies, from consumables to high-cost implants, ensuring that critical items are available when needed while minimising waste and costs. IMS solutions often integrate with other systems to enhance efficiency, support compliance with regulatory standards, and streamline workflows, contributing to improved patient care and operational outcomes.

**Q1** Does your Trust use an Inventory Management System (IMS)?

- a. If 'Yes,' which company supplies this?
- b. If 'No, do you have plans to procure an IMS within the next three years?

**A1** a. Information not held – we do not use an Inventory Management System (IMS).  
b. Yes

**Q2** If the answer to Question 1 was yes, then:

Which company supplies the IMS?

**A2** Information not held – as per A1

**Q3** When was this system implemented?

**A3** Information not held – as per A1

**Q4** When was the most recent upgrade or change?

**A4** Information not held – as per A1

**Q5** Did you procure this system independently, through NHS Supply Chain, or through some other route (please specify)?

**A5** Information not held – as per A1

**Q6** Did the Trust use a different IMS prior to the current one? If so, please specify the previous system(s) and how long were they used for?

**A6** Information not held – as per A1

**Q7** What are the key differences between the current IMS and any previous IMS in terms of functionality, ease of use, and integration with other Trust systems?

A7 Information not held – as per A1

Q8 Does the current system manage the following:  
a) High-cost implants (e.g., cardiac pacemakers, hip and knee replacements, spinal fusion devices)  
b) Consumables (e.g., scalpels, blood vials, swabs)  
c) Human tissue (e.g., corneal tissue, skin grafts, bone grafts, heart valves)  
d) Other (please specify)

A8 Information not held – as per A1

Q9 Does your IMS integrate with other Trust software (e.g., EPR, procurement platforms)? If yes, which?

A9 Information not held – as per A1

Q10 What primary benefits has the Trust observed with the current IMS (e.g., cost savings, efficiency gains, regulatory compliance)?

A10 Information not held – as per A1

Q11 Do you believe that you are receiving/expect to have received by the contract end good return on investment from this IMS?

A11 Information not held – as per A1

Q12 What are the main challenges or limitations experienced with the system?

A12 Information not held – as per A1

Q13 Does the Trust have plans to upgrade or replace the IMS within the next three years?

A13 Information not held – as per A1

Q14 What new capabilities/improvements/features would be a priority in future IMS procurement (e.g., enhanced traceability, asset or human tissue tracking)?

A14 Information not held – as per A1

Q15 Who is the best person within the Trust to speak to about IMS systems?

A15 Information not held – as per A1

Q16 If the answer to Question 1 was no, then:

Do you have plans to procure an IMS within the next three years?

A16 Yes