

FOI 3755

28th May 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

The number of bladder scanners in use within the NHS Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Response:

57

Make and model breakdown

Response:

This information is withheld due to 'Section 31(1)(a) Law enforcement– leaving the Southern HSC Trust, Patients, Clients & Staff more vulnerable to crime'

This is a qualified exemption and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

a) Leave (Southern Health & Social Care Trust) patients, clients & staff more vulnerable to crime

Section 31 – Law Enforcement Section

Section 31(1)(a) states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more vulnerable to crime.

It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime.

Year of purchase breakdown

Response:

2x	purchased 2012
1x	purchased 2013
2x	purchased 2016
4x	purchased 2018
3x	purchased 2019
6x	purchased 2020
4x	purchased 2021

1x	purchased 2022
8x	purchased 2023
6x	purchased 2024
5x	purchased 2025
11x	purchased 2026
4x	Not recorded

Hospital or site level distribution**Response:**

29 are used in acute sites the remainder in the community

Warranty length**Response:**

Typically 12 months

Whether on a maintenance contract and expiry date?**Response:**

All scanners older than 12m are on a regional organised service contract excluding one specific brand. Contract expires Dec 2026

Does the Health board service/maintain their own bladder scanners?**Response:**

One brand is maintained in-house.

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