



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-634

Date: 11th April 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 1st February 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding framework.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 Please provide your Trust's spending on 'on-framework' recruitment agencies in 2021/22 and this financial year (2022/23); *

A1 Totals paid to agencies are:

2021/22	£4,905,764
2022/23	£7,117,954

Q2 Please provide your Trust's total spending on 'off-framework' recruitment agencies in 2021/22 and this financial year (2022/23);

A2 Trust do not utilise off-framework agencies.

Q3 Please provide a list of all the 'off-framework' recruitment agencies that your Trust uses and show how much each agency has been paid in 2021/22 and this financial year (2022/23);

A3 We used nil off framework shifts in 2021/22 and we only used 3 Thornbury shifts in 2022/23 but I don't have the overall spend

Q4 How many times has your Trust 'broken glass' and paid above NHS capped rates for doctors, nurses and other clinical staff in 2021/22 and this financial year (2022/23);

A4 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in weekly records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all weekly records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12

exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all weekly records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just data that we have been submitting the NHSI Agency Return monthly (Since May 2022) we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

	2022								2023	
Row Labels	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Doctors	1241	1510	1274	342	157	167	156		1373	1313
Nurses	47	52	57	87	374	344	114	297	395	426
Other Clinical Staff	27	27	16	179	64	64	98	304	276	269
Grand Total	1315	1589	1347	608	595	575	368	601	2044	2008

Q5 Can you please state how many times your Trust filled shifts with staff supplied by Thornbury Nursing Services in 2021/22 and this financial year (2022/23)?;

A5 Three (3) shifts over one weekend in 2022/23 only

Q6 Can you please provide the highest per hour rate paid to Thornbury Nursing Services for a shift in 2021/22 and this financial year (2022/23)? In each case, can you please detail the job category of the role provided?

*** These are staff agencies that have been approved for use by the NHS via framework agreements, as explained in the June 2019 'Agency rules' document by NHS England and NHS Improvement.**

A6 RGN weekend shifts at £76.45 per hour

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records