



21 August 2018



**Hertfordshire
Partnership University**
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI 2971

Thank you for your request concerning external consultancy spend.

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, may I please request the following information for the last five years (2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14, 2012/13) for each of the following:

1) Level of deficit at year end

Information regarding our deficit/surplus is published in the Annual Reports under the Analysis of Financial Performance section¹. Please follow this [link](#) to our website where you can find the last 3 financial years Annual Reports.

I have attached our Annual Reports for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

2) External consultancy services spend

This information is also reported in our Annual Reports; please follow the link provided above. You can find the Consultancy spend under Section 2.3.5 in our more recent reports and under 5.1 Operating Expenses in our older reports.

3) Breakdown of consultancy spend by all sectors e.g health management consultancy, digital health consultancy, environment consultancy etc.

We are unable to provide this breakdown as it is not held in a reportable electronic format². To supply the information requested would involve manually going through every invoice and categorising them. To carry out this task would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450.

Under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. For example between 2012/13 and 2016/17 there were 824 consultancy invoices. This would mean manually going through each invoice and categorising them. It is estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to extract this information and provide the breakdown, i.e. 69 hours @ £25ph = £1,725.

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

¹ Section 21 – Information available through other means has been applied

² Section 12 – the cost of compliance will exceed the appropriate limit

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](#).

