

8 June 2021

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Our Ref: FOI/04194

Thank you for your request concerning agency spend for locum and therapists.

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

- 1. What is the total Trust spend purely with framework agencies for the recruitment of locum doctors and therapists in the past 12 months? Please also provide a break-down of spend per grade, speciality and by each recruitment agency by company name.**

We consider the breakdown of agency spend against the spend per grade and speciality to be commercially sensitive under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act¹.

The information is exempt if disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding the information.

This is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to the public interest test. We have considered the reasons for and against disclosure below:

Reason for disclosure

There is considerable interest in ensuring the Trust is transparent about its spending of public money at a time when public finances are under considerable scrutiny. Currently there is significant interest in the Agency spend and ensuring value for money.

Reason against disclosure

The Trust is obliged to protect its commercial relationships with third parties; they must have confidence that their commercial information is secure when provided to us and the release of all their information would prejudice our on-going relationships.

Conclusion

We reached the view that on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding the breakdown per speciality/grade under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act because by providing this information would identify unit / hourly costs and this may impact on our commercial interest including the economic interest of the procurement process when negotiations occur in the future.

However under Section 16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance we have provided you with the total spend per agency which we feel satisfies our transparency obligations.

¹ Section 43 – Information that constitutes a trade secret or may prejudice commercial interests.

Framework Agency	Spend from January 21 to December 21 (to date)
Athona	17,137.79
CES	7,017.45
Evergood Healthcare	51,445.60
ID Medical	11,998.80
Locum People	7,702.50
Medacs	54,014.63
Medi-cure	35,700.00
ProMedical	182,870.82
Pulse	477,384.45
TOTAL	845,272.08

2. **What is the total Trust spend purely with off-framework agencies for the recruitment of locum doctors and therapists in the past 12 months? Please also provide a break-down of spend per grade, speciality and by each recruitment agency by company name.**

Zero

3. **What is the total Trust spend purely with agencies for the recruitment of permanent & fixed term doctors and therapists in the past 6 months? Please also provide a break-down of spend per grade, speciality and by each recruitment agency by company name.**

Again, we do not believe providing this level of breakdown to be in our commercial interest. Please see explanation given under question 1. However under S16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance we are happy to provide you with the overall spend.

The overall spend to agencies for the recruitment of permanent and fixed term doctors and therapists in the last 6 months was £41,881.31 (from June 2021 to December 2021)

4. **Does your organization use a Direct Engagement scheme? If so, who provides it and when does their contract expire?**

This information is already in the public domain². Please follow this [link](#) to our frequently asked questions. The contract is due to expire in December 2022.

5. **What percentage of bookings are made outside of the Direct Engagement model (non-DE)?**

Zero

6. **Which medical services do you outsource to external companies & which companies do you outsource to?**

Zero

7. **How many doctors have been booked outside of IR35 in previous 12 months ?**

Zero

² Section 21 – Information is available through other means

8. In which specialty is your highest paid Locum Consultant Doctor and what is their hourly rate ?

We have given full consideration to providing you with the specialty of the highest paid locum doctor and feel this constitutes personal data. We have therefore have applied exemption Section 40(2)³. This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the Data Protection Act as this question clearly does.

Hourly rates paid to agencies are exempt under S43, please see explanation given under question 1.

9. How many individual locums do you have working with each specific agency ? please provide each recruitment agency by company name and how many

By providing you with this level of information would make it possible to calculate hourly rates. We have therefore applied S43, please see explanation given under question 1. However again under S16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance we can confirm that there are 5 or less locums working with each agency.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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](#).



³ Section 40(2) - Personal Data has been applied. This is because by releasing this information could identify individual(s) and constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act (2018).