

2 February 2024

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
99 Waverley Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804227  
Email: [Hpkt.foi@nhs.net](mailto:Hpkt.foi@nhs.net)

Our Ref: FOI/04970

Thank you for your request concerning translation costs.

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

**1. For the last financial year, what was the total amount spent on translation costs?**

The spend for translation in 2022/23 was £102,217.45

**2. Can you provide a breakdown of these costs by language translated.**

The Trust considers the release of the breakdown of costs by language translated to be commercially sensitive under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The exemption has been applied as disclosure of this information, combined with other information already in the public domain (known as the 'mosaic effect') would provide hourly rates. 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 in favour of 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.

**Reason against disclosure**

The Trust is obliged to protect its negotiating position in a competitive environment to ensure value for money. Providing the hourly rate could prejudice our bargaining position and give a competitor an unfair advantage in terms of securing future contracts.

We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this breakdown under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Trust has released the total cost which we feel satisfies our transparency obligations.

**3. Do you hire any dedicated translators? If so provide details of how many, total salary cost and for what language.**

We do not hire or employ employee translators.



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](#).

