

Ref: FOI/2022/8558

Date Received: 22nd December 2022

Response Due: 7th February 2023

Date: 27th January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

I am writing to make an open request for all the information to which I am entitled to under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) I would like to request the following information:

1. How many agencies are used to supply Locum agency doctors?

19 Agencies with a confirmed shift between April 2022–December 2022

2. Of these agencies, how many are off framework?

None.

3. What is your highest capped commission rates for each grade?

Please see tab labelled Q3 Highest Commission on the attached spreadsheet. This only includes grades the trust has booked between April 2022–December 2022.

4. When is your PSL up for renewal?

All agencies on the framework are used there is no tier-based contract in place.

5. Which Framework does your trust use for Locum Doctors?

HTE / Total Workforce Solutions II.

6. How many Locum Bookings are paid over the framework or capped rates at your trust in the last 12 months?

3,667 shifts over framework pay rate, 0 over framework commission rate.

7. Please confirm what percentage of bookings over the last 6 months have been within the NHSI agency caps (an approximation based on NHSI data submissions is fine)

1.59% under cap between July 2022 – December 2022.

8. Please confirm which provider manages your direct engagement process, the fee for the service and the date on which this contract expires

Supplier: Liaison
Contract Expiry: 28/03/2024

Section 43(2) - Commercial interests.

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and subject to the prejudice test and the public interest test. Under the prejudice test we must consider if disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice our commercial interests or the commercial interests of a third party. Consideration is also given to the harm disclosing this information would be likely to cause, combined with other information already in the public domain (mosaic effect) or possibly released at a future date (precedent effect). The public interest test considers and balances the public interest in disclosing this information against the public interest in not disclosing this information and uses this assessment to decide whether there is sufficient justification in withholding this information under this exemption. Information disclosed under the FOIA is considered to be public information, and while there is a presumption towards disclosure, consideration needs to be given as to who will have access to this information beyond the requestor and the purposes for which they could use the information.

Prejudice to commercial interests

The Trust has examined the impact of releasing the information withheld under Section 43 (2) in order to decide if disclosure would be likely to prejudice our commercial interests or the commercial interests of a third party. The information required to provide a response regarding the provider fees is contractually confidential and would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of ourselves and those who intend to tender for this service.

Public Interest Test

There is, of course, a public interest in promoting transparency of public authorities' decisions and accountability, however, the disclosure of the information currently withheld under this exemption would be likely to prejudice commercial interests of the Trust as it will reveal details which would be likely impact on future spending and also prejudice our ability to effectively negotiate and achieve best value for the public purse.

It is the view of the Trust that, at this time, the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

9. Is your bank managed by an external bank provider (e.g., NHS Professionals, Bank Partners) or in-house? Please confirm who is the external bank provider and when the contract expires if relevant

Supplier: Liaison

Contract Expiry: 28/03/2024

10. Please confirm what percentage of bookings are processed with a VAT savings by your direct engagement (DE) provider

48.62% DE between April 2022–December 2022

11. Please confirm % of locums working non-Direct Engagement and % outside IR35

51.37% non-DE
0% outside IR35 between April 2022–December 2022

12. What is the grade & speciality of all locums paid outside IR35?

None.

13. Please confirm which services in the hospital are currently utilising insourcing contacts, who is supplying the insourcing service and when the contract is up for renewal.

Endoscopy - The Endoscopy Group – Contract expiry date 31/11/2023

14. Does your Trust utilise a payment portal to process Locum Doctors Pay?

Liaison Payroll Services.

15. What grade & speciality is your highest paid Locum agency doctor, what is their speciality and their hourly charge?

Consultant –Obstetrics & Gynaecology £180.07. Total hourly charge consists of Pay, NI (assumed at applicable rate) and Commission. VAT is included for Standard Placements. Covers shifts between April 2022–December 2022

16. What grade & speciality is your highest paid bank doctor, what is their speciality and their hourly charge?

Consultant –ENT £248.51. Total hourly charge consists of Pay and NI (assumed at applicable rate). Covers shifts between April 2022–December 2022

17. Please outline you spend per agency, broken down by grade and speciality of doctor over the past 12 months?

Please see tab labelled Q17 Agency Spend on the attached spreadsheet. Agency spend consists of Pay, NI, Pension, Expenses, Ltd Co VAT and Commission. VAT is included for Standard Placements. Covers shifts with a start date between April 2022–December 2022

18. Please outline spend per doctors' specialty, broken down by grade and speciality of doctor over the past 12 months from your internal Bank?

Please see tab labelled Q18 Bank Spend on the attached spreadsheet. Bank spend consists of Pay, NI, Pension, Expenses and Ltd Co VAT. Covers shifts with a start date between April 2022–December 2022

19. What grade & speciality is your highest paid Locum agency doctor, what is their speciality and their hourly charge?

Consultant –Obstetrics & Gynaecology £180.07. Total hourly charge consists of Pay, NI (assumed at applicable rate) and Commission. VAT is included for Standard Placements. Covers shifts between April 2022–December 2022

Please confirm the name, job title and email of the head of department & manager for the following services:

- **General Surgery** – Nick Jones – Directorate Manager
- **Urology Service** - Nick Jones – Directorate Manager
- **Trauma and Orthopaedic Service** – Mr Andrew Wright – Clinical Director
- **Ear, Nose and Throat Service** - Nick Jones – Directorate Manager
- **Ophthalmology Service** - Nick Jones – Directorate Manager
- **Neurology Service** - Kate Davenport – Directorate Manager
- **Cardiology Service** - Dr A Kumar – Clinical Director
- **Cancer Services** – Lee Unsworth – Directorate Manager
- **Endocrinology Service** – N/A
- **Respiratory Medicine** – Dr A Kumar – Clinical Director
- **Dermatology Service** – Jackie Howard – Directorate Manager
- **Gastroenterology** – Dr C Gregory – Clinical Director
- **Acute Medicine** – Dr M Ilyas – Clinical Director
- **Geriatrics** - Kate Davenport – Directorate Manager (Care of Elderly)
- **Stroke Medicine** – Kate Davenport – Directorate Manager
- **Palliative Care** - Dr A Kumar – Clinical Director
- **Radiology** – Lee Unsworth – Directorate Manager
- **Anaesthetics** – Vicky Bateson – Directorate Manager
- **Maxillofacial Surgery** - Nick Jones – Directorate Manager
- **Pathology Services** – N/A

The Trust does not routinely give out email addresses and direct telephone numbers of staff members, as large numbers of unsolicited emails/telephone calls, could cause disruption by blocking email accounts/telephone lines thus preventing true work-related emails/calls from being delivered. However, any of the above staff can be contacted via main switchboard on 01942 244000.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 28 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Kelly Knowles
Acting Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111