

FOI REF: 21/235

07th June 2021

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Trust regarding;

- 1. Breakdown of shifts (Numbers only) filled by individual Nursing Agencies (by name of agency) in Trust operated theatre wards for 'Surgical First Assistants', Operating Department Practitioners' and 'SCRUB Nurses' for March 1st 2021-April 30th 2021**

Please see below for the number of shifts filled by Nursing Agencies broken down by Agency. Please note that we do not hold this information broken down by Surgical First Assistants and SCRUB Nurses as all nurses are booked as Registered Nurses (RN).

Agency	Operating Department Practitioners	RN
Day Webster	32	19
MedicsPro	0	25
Medsol	67	0
NC Healthcare	0	35
Sirona	37	0
TFS Healthcare	0	3
YourWorld	12	120

- 2. Individual Charge rates for Nursing agencies for theatre staff March 1st 2021-April 30th 2021**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

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In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

However we can confirm that we pay to a maximum band 7 NHSI cap.

3. Number of shifts filled by individual 'Off Framework Agencies' March 1st 2021- April 30th 2021

None.

4. Total Cost for each Nursing Agency used by theatre departments financial year April 2020- April 2021

The Trust does not centrally record costs for each nursing agency used by theatre departments. To the enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of transactions.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

However we have provided the Total Agency Spend in the table below for the financial year 2020/21:

Row Labels	Sum Of Amount
Day Webster Ltd	362,263
Medicspro Ltd	31,467
Medsol Healthcare Limited	276,668
NC Healthcare Ltd	67,827
Sirona Medical Limited	85,179
TFS Healthcare Limited	475,141
Your World Nursing	523,027
Grand Total	1,821,571

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net