

FOI REF: 21/050

17 February 2021

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:

In 2019 BMA and NHS England (NHSE) reached an agreement for funds to be allocated to trusts providing they signed up to the Fatigue and Facilities Charter. Up to £60,000 was allocated to individual trusts, with spending to be determined by the Trust Junior Doctor Forums.

We are now in the process of auditing how this money has been spent and are asking all Trusts who received the money to provide details of how it has been spent or is planning to be spent if there is still money remaining.

Please could you provide us with the information below

1. Funding

Total Funds Given to Trust	60k
Total Funds Spent so far	£44393.47
Total Funds Unspent so far	0k
Total Funds Unspent but allocated to project/items	£15606.53

2. What was your process for allocation of funds?

a. Was the Junior Doctors Forum fully involved in the decision making?

Junior Doctors Forum, Mess Presidents, Guardians for safe working were involved in the decision making on how this funding was to be spent and where.

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b. Was the Local Negotiating Committee involved in any decision making?

The LNC have been updated and involved in monitoring the expenditure of the funding.

c. Were any BMA representatives involved in the decision making?

Yes the regional BMA Representative is part of the Junior Doctors Forum.

d. Who had final say in what was spent/allocated on?

The decision on what was required was undertaken through the Doctors Mess presidents, Junior Doctors and the Doctors Forum under the Chairmanship of the Guardians for Safe Working. However once the decision on what work was to be done and items to be purchased were agreed, the Senior Manager of the education service ensured value for money- entered into conversations with stakeholders to query costing of work etc., to get better outcomes for the funding provided.

3. If you have spent all the funding, when was this achieved (month and year if possible)?

We will have achieved full spend by end of March 2021.

4. What are the plans for any unused funding at the end of this financial year?

If there is any subsequent underspend which is not anticipated it has been agreed to evenly split the remaining funds between the two Junior Doctors Mess.

a. How much longer is needed to allow for spending the remaining money?

The funding will be committed for funding by the end of the financial year.

b. Under which budget are the funds currently held?

Education budget line - but requested to be transferred to the Guardians for Safe Working before Christmas.

5. Were there barriers to spending/allocating the money?

There were some issues linked to the COVID pandemic that delayed the spending of this funding.

6. Please provide a breakdown on what items/areas the money has been spent/allocated on so far (proforma below can be used if easier)

Item/area of Expenditure i.e. sofas, mess	Total Funds Allocated	Spent/Unspent
Eastbourne District General Hospital (EDGH): Redesign, rebuilding of a former education room to the new doctors mess - new kitchen, cupboards, above and below new floor, sound proofing, repaint etc.	£30,000	£21786.44
EDGH - Refurbishment - new TV computers, bar stools, rugs, cutlery, sleep chairs, settees, dining table and chairs, TV stand, fridges, dishwasher - X box and games	£8213.56	£8213.56
Total Spent EDGH		£30000
Conquest Allocation	£30000	£14393.47
Conquest Hospital - upgrade/refurbishment - repaint, new furniture, rugs, picture, Xbox and games	£13618.47	
Fridges for Doctors Rest Areas	£475	
Xbox and Gaming merchandise	£300	
Additional support for doctors rest areas and doctors mess - committed against the budget		£15606.53
Total Spent Conquest		£30000

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 Lynette Wells, Director of Corporate Affairs, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (lynette.wells2@nhs.net) quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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