

FOI REF: 21/439

6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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## 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:

1. a) **Who is the head of procurement at your Trust responsible for approving nursing healthcare workers agency use?**

[Jenny Darwood](#)  
[Associate Director Flexible Staffing Resources](#)

- b) **Who is the temporary/ flexible Staff only responsible for the management of this service?**

[Laura Ransom](#)  
[Temporary Workforce Services Manager](#)

2. **Please provide the contract information in relation to both question 1 a) and b)**

[Jenny Darwood - \[j.darwood@nhs.net\]\(mailto:j.darwood@nhs.net\)](#)  
[Laura Ransom - \[laura.ransom@nhs.net\]\(mailto:laura.ransom@nhs.net\)](#)

3. **Please can you outline your Off-Framework agency spend for each of the following staff groups between September 05 2019 to July 11, 2021?**

- |                                       |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) RGNs (ward nurse) band 5           | g) Scrub nurses band 5 and band 6 |
| b) RCNs band 5                        | h) ODP band 5 and band 6          |
| c) Healthcare assistance band 2       | i) Physiotherapist                |
| d) RMNs band 5                        | j) Speech Therapist               |
| e) specialist ITU nurses band 5 and 6 | k) Paramedic band 5               |
| f) CPNs band 6                        |                                   |

The Trust does not centrally record the Off-Framework agency spend broken down to this level. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of all non-framework shifts and a manual review of invoices. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

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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.

- 4. Following the same breakdown of staff groups in question three how many of framework shifts have been unfilled between September 05 2019 to July 11, 2021?**

The Trust does not centrally record the number of framework shifts unfilled. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of emails and Healthroster. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request. Please see details above.

- 5. Since the start of January 2019 to present please provide the current charge rate from Off Framework agencies nursing / healthcare worker providers a clear breakdown of the workers pay rate and agency commission?**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested in respect of the charge rate and a breakdown of the workers pay rate and agency commission, 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.

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

- 6. Based on the above information who are your current Off Framework agencies and how many shifts have been booked for each month from September 05 2019 to July 11, 2021?**

Please see below for the Off-Framework agencies used by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust:

Medgen  
Nursing 24  
Mind Locums  
Green Staff  
One Call24  
Eleventh Hour

Please see below for the number of shifts booked per month:

September 2019 – January 2020	0
February 2020	1
March 2020	63
April 2020	344
May 2020	34
June 2020	13
July 2020	6
August 2020	9
September – December 2020	0
January 2021	4
February 2021 – July 2021	0

7. **Can you please provide the charge rates for the below nursing / healthcare worker levels that Off Framework have been charging you since September 05 2019 to July 11, 2021?**

- a) **RGNs (ward nurse) band 5**
- b) **RCNs band 5**
- c) **Healthcare assistance band 2**
- d) **RMNs band 5**
- e) **specialist ITU nurses band 5 and 6**
- f) **CPNs band 6**
- g) **Scrub nurses band 5 and band 6**
- h) **ODP band 5 and 6**
- i) **Phsiotherapist**
- j) **Speech therapist**
- k) **Paramedic band 5**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested in respect of the charge rate for the above, 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 as these rates are negotiated locally.

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.

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

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](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

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