

FOI REF: 23/281

17th May 2023

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 workforce information for your Trust for each of the following pay years: 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23:

- 1. The consultant workforce expressed in headcount (average of the monthly totals during each year).**

Consultants				
2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
229	245	261	277	285

- 2. The consultant workforce expressed in whole time or full time equivalent (WTE/FTE), where WTE/FTE reflects all programmed activities undertaken by consultants, including additional programmed activities (average of the monthly totals during each year). By programmed activities, we mean the unit used by hospitals to plan consultant work.**

- *For avoidance of doubt, this is different to the FTE figure routinely published in the NHS Digital NHS Workforce Statistics (<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-workforce-statistics>), where individual consultants contributing to that figure can only take up to a value of 1 FTE, even where they are working more than full-time.*

Consultants				
2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
251.1	260.9	273.0	286.7	293.1

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3. The total number of all programmed activities (PAs) performed by consultants during each of the stated years.

Consultants				
2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
2510.9	2608.8	2730.4	2866.9	2930.9

4. The total number of additional programmed activities (APA's) performed by consultants during each of the stated years. By additional programmed activities, we mean programmed activities that are additional to those in consultant main contracts (i.e. those above programmed activities above 10 per week, in the case of a full-time consultant).

Consultants				
2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
332.4	292.2	289.7	310.3	326.6

5. Total number of programmed activities (PAs) and/or hours of extra contractual work (i.e. excluding APAs, e.g. waiting list initiative activity, additional sessions outside the job plan, etc) performed by consultants during each of the stated years.

Consultants				
2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
2178.6	2316.7	2440.7	2556.6	2604.3

6. The total number of programmed activities (PAs) performed by consultants during a.) weekends, b.) weekday evenings, c.) weekday nights, and d.) weekday days during each of the stated years.

○ *For avoidance of doubt, we mean:*

- *weekends: any time on a Saturday or a Sunday*
- *weekday evenings: 7 pm to 11 pm Monday to Friday*
- *weekday nights: 11 pm to 7 am Monday to Friday*
- *weekday days: 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Friday*

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record programme activities. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require us to try and combine information from different rota systems, which we are not sure is achievable and if we were able to achieve this would take us over the 18 hour exemption. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

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.

7. The number of consultant vacancies in the Trust expressed in whole time or full time equivalent (WTE/FTE) at the beginning of each of the stated years.

Consultants				
2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
43.6	43.6	58.8	19.7	45.9

Where it is not possible to provide this information going all the way back to December 2018, please provide the data as far back as is possible.

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, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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