

FOI REF: 23/283

30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://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:

**1. Which off framework agencies are used for non-clinical vacancies?**

None.

**2. On a month by month basis what was your off-framework agency spend for the last 12 months for nurses.**

£0.

**3. On a month by month basis what was your off-framework agency spend for the last 12 months for doctors.**

£0.

**4. On a month by month basis what was your off-framework agency spend for the last 12 months for band 8s.**

£0.

**5. On a month by month basis what was your off-framework agency spend for the last 12 months for band 9s.**

£0.

**6. On a month by month basis what was your off-framework agency spend for the last 12 months for very senior managers?**

£0.

**7. Which off frame work agencies supplied nurses in 2020, 2021 and 2022.**

Vulcan Healthcare  
Pure Healthcare  
Nursing24  
Greenstaff Medical

**8. What is the average length of a contract for a band 8 placed through an off framework agency.**

Not applicable.

**9. What is the average length of a contract for a band 9 placed through an off framework agency.**

Not applicable.

**10. Total off framework spend in 2020, 2021, and 2022**

2020	£0.00
2021	£5,323.51
2022	£19,946.33

**11. Total agency spend for band 8s in 2020, 2021 and 2022 through framework**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the agency spend through framework broken down by band or VSM's. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of each invoice which we estimate would take over the 18 hours. 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.

However, we can confirm that the total agency spend through framework, for Bands 5 to 9, for the calendar years requested, is as follows:

2020	£4,452,413.50
2021	£3,326,920.61
2022	£4,546,386.03

**12. Total agency spend for band 9s in 2020, 2021 and 2022 through framework**

Section 12(1) applied, please see above.

**13. Total agency spend for VSMs in 2020, 2021 and 2022 through framework**

Section 12(1) applied, please refer to question 11.

**14. Who is responsible for approving the use of agencies for agency staff? Please provide their email address and contact number**

Laura Ransom  
Temporary Workforce and Volunteer Services Manager  
[laura.ransom@nhs.net](mailto:laura.ransom@nhs.net)

**15. What was your off-framework agency spend for fixed term contracts (not ad-hoc shifts) in 2020, 2021, and 2022 split between clinical and non-clinical**

**Clinical:**

2020	£0.00
2021	£5,323.51
2022	£19,946.33

**Non-Clinical:** £0 all 3 years

**16. What is the process for recruiting interim very senior managers? Who is responsible for that recruitment?**

The process is in line with Trust recruitment process. Recruitment team responsible for the recruitment.

**17. What was the agency spend for VSMs for 2020, 2021 and 2022**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the agency spend for VSM's. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of each invoice which we estimate would take over the 18 hours. 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.

However, we can confirm that the total agency spend for VSM's, bands 5 to 9, for the calendar years requested, is as follows:

2020	£4,452,413.50
2021	£3,332,244.12
2022	£4,566,332.36

**18. Do you have an off-framework audit pack?**

No.

**19. What are the compliance requirements for off-framework agencies – split between clinical and non-clinical**

We no longer use off-framework agencies.

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](mailto: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  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)