

FOI REF: 23/592

27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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:

**I'm writing to request information from NHS trusts in England about how much was spent on locum and agency doctors during the walkouts held by both consultants and junior doctors over the past 12 months.**

**Please provide answers for each timeframe and separate each one clearly in your response.**

**These timeframes are:**

- (A) Junior doctor strike – 13, 14 and 15 March 2023.**
- (B) Junior doctor strike – 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 April.**
- (C) Junior doctor strike – 14, 15, 16 and 17 June.**
- (D) Junior doctor strike – 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 July.**
- (E) Junior doctor strike – 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 August.**
- (F) Consultant strike – 20 and 21 July.**
- (G) Consultant strike – 24, 25 and 26 August.**

**For each given timeframe could you please provide the following information:**

- 1) How many staff walked out as a result of industrial action over each period and what percentage of your junior doctor/consultant staff did this equate to. IE – 150 junior doctor staff walked out during 13, 14 and 15 March dates out of 200 junior doctor staff would be 75%.**

Timeframes	Number of Staff on Strike	% of Junior Doctors/Consultants
(A)	182	82.4%
(B)	231	85.2%
(C)	196	77.5%
(D)	193	81.1%
(E)	212	80.6%
(F)	22	13.7%
(G)	23	14.3%

- 2) How much did the trust spend on locum/agency workers during each period specifically as a result of industrial action. If this specific figure is not held, please provide the locum and agency spend for the previous year for each relevant timeframe. IE 13, 14 and 15 March 2023 vs 13, 14 and 15 March 2022.

Timeframes	Total Spend
(A)	£184,866.74
(B)	£344,183.18
(C)	£238,828.68
(D)	£320,481.38
(E)	£225,641.88
(F)	£54,356.02
(G)	£3,576.18

- 3) Did the Trust allow doctors who were taking part in industrial action to take on locum shifts at the same trust during strike periods when they were not scheduled to work?

Yes.

- 4) If the answer to the above question was yes, (a) How many doctors did this during each period and (b) How much did the Trust spend on paying its own doctors for these shifts during each period?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the information requested above. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review, and cross referencing of data downloads and finance ledger, which we estimate would take in excess of 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.

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  
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