

FOI REF: 23/840

Eastbourne District General Hospital  
Kings Drive  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN21 2UD

29<sup>th</sup> December 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) Who is the head of procurement responsible for approving agency usage for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy locums?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's Procurement are not responsible for approving agency usage.

**2) Who are the managers responsible for agency usage (on and off framework) for the following departments at all hospitals associated with the Trust:**

- a) Physiotherapy.
- b) Occupational Therapy.

Laura Ransom  
Temporary Workforce and Volunteer Services Manager

**3) Please can you provide the contact number and email addresses for the managers listed in relation to question 1 and 2.**

We are unable to provide the contact details of Staff as we consider this information to be exempt from release in accordance with section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act (Prohibition on disclosure) and would refer to the Privacy and Electronic Communications EC Directive Regulations 2003 which provide specific rules on electronic communication services, including marketing (by phone, fax, email or text) and keeping communications services secure. We will not provide any information that could result in the transmission of unsolicited communications which may place an unacceptable risk to our email network and could also have a detrimental impact on patient care and treatment.

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The contact number for the main hospital are accessible on the Trust website <http://www.esht.nhs.uk>.

This is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest.

**4) How much was your Framework agency spend for each of the following staff groups since January 2023 – present?**

a) Physiotherapy. £178,275

b) Occupational Therapy. £49,156

**5) Please provide the names of the agencies currently used by the Trust to supply Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists – please include the % of shifts filled by each agency since January 2023.**

Tripod Partners	36.63%
Maxxima	30.26%
Sanctuary Allied Health	20.93%
Piers Meadow	4.24%
Your World	4.10%
RIG Medical Recruit	3.82%

**6) Do you use a direct engagement model to facilitate locum placements for Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists, if so, which one?**

TempRE (Liaison).

**7) What is the highest rate paid for Band 6 Physiotherapists and Band 6 Occupational Therapists since January 2023?**

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, 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.

As a public body we have a duty to purchase services at the most competitive price. We have concluded that disclosure of the information could enable commercial suppliers to raise the price of goods, and therefore, result in the Trust not obtaining best value for money.

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.

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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)