



East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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FOI REF: 24/641

18th September 2024

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:

Concerning the procurement and award of contracts under Lot 1 of the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework for temporary clinical and healthcare staffing. I would appreciate your assistance in providing the following information:

1. Direct Award Method:

- a. Has your Trust employed the direct award method for sourcing workers or small groups of workers under the RM6281 framework? If so, please provide evidence demonstrating that the selected suppliers offered the most economically advantageous terms in accordance with the framework's guidelines.

[The Trust does not Direct Award.](#)

- b. What measures does your Trust implement to ensure transparency and fairness in direct award decisions, including maintaining a clear audit trail?

[Not applicable.](#)

2. Further Competition:

- a. Has your Trust used the further competition process for awarding contracts where adjustments to the framework terms were necessary or where commercial benefits could be achieved? Please provide documentation detailing:

- The identification of the relevant lot.
- Invitations sent to all capable suppliers.
- Evaluation criteria used to determine the most economically advantageous tender.
- Evidence of a fair and transparent evaluation process.

The Trust is not using the NHS Workforce Alliance RM6281 Clinical Staffing Framework. When the Trust Awards Contracts under a Framework, it does so in line with the Framework Agreement Terms and Conditions ensuring adherence to Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR15) regulations

3. Neutral or Master Vendor:

- a. **If your Trust utilizes a neutral or master vendor to manage temporary staffing, how do you ensure these vendors comply with the framework's requirements, including the Public Contracts Regulations 2015? Please provide evidence of compliance with the framework's rules for transparency, fairness, and economic advantage.**

The Trust is not using the NHS Workforce Alliance RM6281 Clinical Staffing Framework. When the Trust Awards Contracts under a Framework, it does so in line with the Framework Agreement Terms and Conditions ensuring adherence to Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR15) regulations

- b. **What processes are in place to monitor and audit the actions of neutral or master vendors?**

Please see answer to Q3a above.

4. Supplier Selection and Exclusion:

- a. **Please explain how your Trust lawfully selects certain suppliers while excluding others under the RM6281 framework. What justifications are used for these decisions, and how do you ensure compliance with the framework and procurement regulations?**

The Trust is not using the NHS Workforce Alliance RM6281 Clinical Staffing Framework. When the Trust Awards Contracts under a Framework, it does so in line with the Framework Agreement Terms and Conditions ensuring adherence to Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR15) regulations

5. Processes for Supplier Selection:

- a. **Could you outline the process your Trust follows when selecting suppliers for temporary clinical and healthcare staff under RM6281? This should include the decision-making steps for choosing between direct award, further competition, or engaging a neutral/master vendor.**

The Trust is not using the NHS Workforce Alliance RM6281 Clinical Staffing Framework. When the Trust Awards Contracts under a Framework, it does so in line with the Framework Agreement Terms and Conditions ensuring adherence to Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR15) regulations

- b. **Please provide contact details for the department responsible for handling legal queries related to procurement under the framework.**

The NHS Workforce Alliance are the framework owners. We suggest you contact The NHS Workforce Alliance, <https://workforcealliance.nhs.uk/contact/>

6. Additional Information:

- a. The total number of agencies listed under Lot 1 and the rates at which they supply their services.**

Under FOIA Section 1 (1) (a) ESHT would advise that it does not hold this information. We suggest you contact NHS Workforce Alliance [The NHS Workforce Alliance, https://workforcealliance.nhs.uk/contact/](https://workforcealliance.nhs.uk/contact/)

- b. The name of the master or neutral vendor managing shift allocation.**

We do not use a master vendor, we have a neutral vendor system called TempRE (Liaison).

- c. If your Trust is not using the Workforce Alliance RM6281 framework, please specify which framework is currently in use.**

RM6161

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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net