

FOI REF: 24/669

18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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) During the period between 1st April 2024 and 31st August 2024, how many external consultants were contracted by the Trust and what were their job roles (for example Software Developer, Agency Cost Reduction Program Director, Service Efficiency Lead etc.)? (For clarity, I'm referring to individuals, not Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) numbers).**

### Section 17 Notice of Refusal

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the number of external consultants or contractors. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of all staff employment files which we estimate would take over 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.

- 2) Please list the Job Title / Role, pay type (Umbrella / PSC etc.), rate type (day rate, hourly) of any contractors / consultants engaged with the Trust at any time during April, May, June, July and August 2024. Please use the template below and include a one line description of the core purpose of the role (responsibilities / objectives), and whether the role pertains to the Trust only, or to a wider ICB project.

Job Title / Role	Pay Type (i.e. Umbrella, PSC etc.)	Rate Type (i.e. Daily or Hourly)	Trust or ICB	Core Responsibility / Objective(s)

[A Section 12\(1\) exemption is applied, please see above for details.](#)

- 3) For each job role, what was the average cost invoiced to the Trust, per day, per contractor, between 1st April 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024?

[A Section 12\(1\) exemption is applied, please see above for details.](#)

- 4) For each of the job roles, what is the average tenure of those who were engaged at any time during 1st April 2024 and 31st August 2024? If they are still in post, please detail their start date and earliest anticipated end date.

[A Section 12\(1\) exemption is applied, please see above for details.](#)

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

Freedom of Information Department  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)