

FOI REF: 24/703

24th December 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: 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:

This request is in relation to the use of social value weighting of 10 per cent in your procurement of goods and services, which has been mandated by government for NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts since April 2022.

Please send me:

- 1. What methods do you use to measure social value from your procurements? Please include any additional measurement methods you use (e.g. TOMs) as well as the NHS Social Value Model.**

[NHS Social Value Model only.](#)

- 2. What is the total social value accrued by your procurement activities each year from April 2022, according to how you measure and report this at a corporate level? If possible, can you provide any explanatory notes to explain how you have measured this?**

[Not applicable, we do not measure this.](#)

- 3. Do you use financial proxies to monetise the measurement of social value, such as social local economic value? If so:**

[Not applicable, we do not monetise the measurement of social value.](#)

- a. Please specify the method or measure you use to monetise the measurement of social value**

[Not applicable.](#)

- b. Please provide the total number of contracts to which you applied this financial proxy each financial year since April 2022**

Not applicable.

- c. Please provide the total value of those contracts**

Not applicable.

- d. Please provide the total monetized social value of those contracts**

Not applicable.

- e. Please provide the total value of all contracts let during that same period**

Not applicable.

- 4. How much in total have you spent in procurement on local business/organisations, each financial year, since April 2022? Please including your definition of a local business/organisation, if you have one.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the amount spent in procurement on local business/organisations. We can confirm there are 595 local suppliers within the Trust's supplier database. To enable the Trust to provide the information requested, 595 manual queries would need to be run, downloaded and analysed, which we estimate would take approximately 49 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.

5. How much have you spent on SMEs each FY since April 2022? The government defines an SME as a company with fewer than 250 employees, turnover under €50m and balance sheet under €43. If the trust has a different definition then please provide it.

Clarification was sought asking you to advise what GBP values we should use for question 5: Turnover Under ?? GBP, Balance Sheet Under ?? GBP and confirmation was received as follows:

I am not in a position to determine how you define and SME. I used the government definition as an example that I felt trusts may use when recording data on your procurements. If this is the definition you use, then you need to set the GBP values to those you use when categorising procurements as with an SME or a large organisation.

If you do not use the government definition, please send it to me alongside the figures I requested broken down using your own definition.

If you do not use any definition of an SME when categorising the entity you're contracting with then please say so.

We do not hold this information as we do not hold information for our suppliers relating to their turnover or number of employees.

6. How much have you spent on VCSEs each FY since April 2022? Again, please include your definition of a VCSE if you have one.

Clarification was sought with regard to your definition of VCSE and confirmation was received as follows:

A VCSE is a voluntary, community and social enterprise. It is a commonly used term to describe charities, public service mutuals, and social enterprises.

We do not hold this information, as we do not hold information for our suppliers relating to their status as charities, public service mutuals, and social enterprises.

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