

FOI REF: 24/800

14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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. What criteria does the Trust use to decide whether to insource or outsource medical services?**

The East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust undertakes detailed capacity and demand planning at service level to determine if there is sufficient internal capacity to meet demand. This is an ongoing practice through the year to ensure assessment of capacity is made against any change in demand or need to further reduce waiting lists. Where it is clear internal capacity is not sufficient to meet demand, the Trust will first consider options to provide sufficient capacity including insourcing and outsourcing options

**2. Can you provide details on the procurement process for selecting third-party providers for insourcing and outsourcing projects?**

I can confirm that we hold the information requested above. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain and can be accessed by searching Teleradiology via the following link:

<https://www.esht.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-publications/>

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

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**3. What internal governance or oversight processes are in place to monitor the decision-making behind insourcing and outsourcing initiatives?**

Any insourcing or outsourcing agreements will be signed off initially at divisional level, via the relevant Divisional Management Group, prior to going to the Trust's Operational Management Group and the Trusts Executive Committee. Depending on the value of the contract additional approvals would also be sought from other appropriate forums in line with the Trusts SFIs.

**4. How many direct awards have the trust engaged with between October 2023 to October 2024?**

8.

**5. Please provide the speciality with total value of contracts awarded for insourcing projects between October 2023 to October 2024.**

Speciality
Neurology
Paediatrics
Vascular
Community Health Integrated Care
Ultrasound
ENT
Gynaecology

**Section 17 Notice of Refusal**

Under Section FOIA Section 1(1)(a) the Trust would confirm that it does hold the total value of the contracts, however 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.

We have concluded that sharing commercials could disadvantage the incumbent supplier against their competitors. The information could provide competitors with the suppliers pricing, which could result in these suppliers obtaining a competitive advantage which could 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.

6. **Please provide the specialty with total value of contracts awarded for outsourcing projects between October 2023 to October 2024.**

Specialty
Vascular

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7. **What percentage of your budget was allocated to insourcing and outsourcing medical services Between October 2023 to October 2024?**

1.6%.

8. **Are there any plans to increase or decrease the use of insourcing or outsourcing medical services from October 2024 – October 25?**

The Trust is planning to maintain the current strategy for use of insourcing or outsourcing. As described, the Trust is constantly assessing capacity to meet current demand or waiting list objectives. As such, the need to insource or outsource any service will be dependent on the assessment at that time.

9. **What long-term strategy does the Trust have in place regarding the use of external providers for medical services?**

The trust will continue to explore the use of external providers to deliver medical services where existing internal or local capacity is insufficient to meet demand. As described, any insourcing or outsourcing must generate equal or greater income than the cost to procure and deliver.

10. Can you provide the names of the third-party providers involved in insourcing and outsourcing projects between October 2023 to October 2024.

Suppliers
Cooden Medical Clinic
Healthcare Business Solutions UK Ltd
Young Epilepsy
ID Medical
Minerva Nursing Limited
Outpatient Network

11. How have insourcing and outsourcing projects impacted patient waiting times in the specialty areas you have previously mentioned?

Yes, in all cases patients treated by insourcing or outsourcing providers have been treated sooner than would have been possible with internal capacity. As such, the total volume of patients waiting for appointments or treatment and the volume of long waiters is lower than it would otherwise have been. The Trust have adopted this approach to support a reduction in the number of long waiting patients across the Integrated Care System.

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)