

FOI REF: 25/062

11th February 2025**Eastbourne District General Hospital**Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

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:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for your Trust. Where direct personal data (e.g., personal email) cannot be shared due to privacy or GDPR, please supply the relevant generic departmental contact(s).

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.

The contact number for the Trust 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.

A. Microbiology & Pathology Departmental Contacts**1. Clinical Lead for Microbiology****o Name**[Dr John Koroneos](#)**o Job Title**[Consultant Microbiologist.](#)**o Contact details (email, main phone extension if available)**[Section 44 applied, please see above.](#)

Cont.../

2. Service Manager for Pathology (or equivalent)

o Name

Shinal Amin

o Job Title

Principal Biomedical Scientist

o Contact details

Section 44 applied, please refer to page 1.

3. Pathology Operational Manager (if different from #2)

o Name

Shinal Amin

o Job Title

Principal Biomedical Scientist

o Contact details

Section 44 applied, please see above.

4. Head of Clinical Services (if covering Pathology or labs)

o Name

Shinal Amin

o Job Title

Principal Biomedical Scientist

o Contact details

Section 44 applied, please see above.

5. Medical Director (if overseeing Microbiology/Pathology)

o Name

o Job Title

o Contact details

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not have a Medical Director overseeing Micro/Pathology.

6. Department Coordinators/Administrators who manage locum scheduling or recruitment for Microbiology/Pathology

- o Name
- o Job Title
- o Contact details

The Trust does not have a dedicated Department Coordinator/Administrator who manages locum scheduling or recruitment for Microbiology/Pathology

7. Regional Recruitment Leads for Microbiology (if applicable)

- o Name
- o Job Title
- o Contact details

The Trust does not have Regional Recruitment Leads for Microbiology Microbiology.

B. Microbiology & Pathology Workforce and Locum Data

1. Current consultant vacancies in Microbiology (or combined Infection specialities).

6.0% (WTE 18.5).

- o If exact figures are unavailable, please provide the best estimate or vacancy rate (%).

Not applicable.

2. Locum Consultants

- o Current number (headcount or FTE) of locum Microbiology consultants.

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

If the FOI could be considered with 'agency locum' this would be most appropriate.

None.

- o Typical or average assignment length (e.g., <1 month, 1–6 months, 6+ months).

Not applicable.

3. Locum Expenditure & Pay

- o **Total expenditure on locum Microbiology consultants for the most recent full financial year (e.g., 2023/24 or 2022/23).**

Not applicable.

- o **The average or range of locum daily or hourly pay rates for Microbiology consultants.**

Not applicable.

- o **Any separate on-call or unsocial hours rates, if easily identifiable.**

Not applicable.

4. Recruitment / Procurement Routes

- o **Which framework(s) and preferred supplier lists (PSLs) your Trust uses to procure locum Microbiology consultants (e.g., HealthTrust Europe, CCS, etc.).**

All agency requests are through the CCS RM6381 framework.

- o **Whether you use a direct engagement model (e.g., Liaison, PlusUs, 247Time) and if so, which provider.**

Yes, Liaison.

- o **The IR35 status for consultant locums (are they all considered inside IR35, or are any outside IR35?).**

Inside IR35.

C. General Medicine Workforce and Locum Data

(Please provide the same type of information as above, but now for General Medicine.)

1. Consultant Vacancies in General Medicine.

8.3% (25.7 WTE).

2. Locum Consultant Numbers in General Medicine.

8 in 2023/24.

3. Locum Expenditure on General Medicine for the last full financial year.

£275,599.87.

4. **The average or range of locum pay rates (daily/hourly) for General Medicine.**

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

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 commercial interests of third parties. This is because release of the information could be detrimental to their competitive position in the market.

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 information broken down to the level requested could cause harm to the Trust, as this could lead to the Trust receiving increased charges and therefore not gaining 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.

5. **Any relevant procurement frameworks or direct engagement providers used to source General Medicine locums.**

All agency requests are through the CCS RM6381 framework. Liaison is our direct engagement provider.

6. **Typical IR35 status for these General Medicine locum posts.**

Inside IR35.

D. Acute Medicine Workforce and Locum Data

(Again, mirror the Microbiology/Pathology questions, but for Acute Medicine.)

1. **Consultant Vacancies in Acute Medicine.**

4.0% (11.8 WTE).

2. **Locum Consultant Numbers in Acute Medicine.**

2 in 2023/24.

3. **Locum Expenditure on Acute Medicine for the last full financial year.**

£24,432.61.

4. The average or range of locum pay rates (daily/hourly) for Acute Medicine.

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

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 commercial interests of third parties. This is because release of the information could be detrimental to their competitive position in the market.

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 information broken down to the level requested could cause harm to the Trust, as this could lead to the Trust receiving increased charges and therefore not gaining 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.

5. Any relevant frameworks or direct engagement providers used for Acute Medicine locums.

All agency requests are through the CCS RM6381 framework. Liaison is our direct engagement provider.

6. Typical IR35 status for these locum posts.

Inside IR35.

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