

FOI REF: 25/075

21st February 2025

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. **Could you please provide the contact details for the procurement officer responsible for international recruitment within the trust? For Doctors, Nurses and AHP.**

Angela Alletson.
Head of Procurement
Email: esht.procurement@nhs.net

2. **Outside of Procurement who is the Senior Officer Responsible for International Recruitment For Nurse, Doctors, AHP? and their contact details?**

Greig Woodfield
Assistant Director of Resourcing | Human Resources

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.

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3. **Additionally, what is the budget allocated for international recruitment for the financial year 2025/26 for Nurse, Doctors, AHP? Who is the responsible officer to allocate this budget?**

The 2025/26 provisional budget for International Recruitment is £950k.

The Finance Business Partner responsible for this budget is John Morgan, working with the Assistant Director of Resourcing, Greig Woodfield.

4. **Current Vacancies at the trust per Specialty: General Nurse/ Mental Health Nurses/ AHP/ Doctors.**

Staff Group	Vacancy % Jan 2025
Allied Health Professionals	12.7%
Medical and Dental	8.9%
Nursing and Midwifery Registered	1.2%

Please note that the Trust does not employ specific mental health nurses.

5. **During the financial year 2023/24, which international recruitment partners did the trust use, if any? Who are they planning to use for 2025/26? Who is the responsible officer who decides this?**

During the financial year 2023/24, the international recruitment partners used by the Trust were: Medacs Healthcare Limited, Remedium Partners Ltd & MSI Group Limited. The Trust plans to use the same partners for 2025/26.

It is the Assistant Director – HR Resourcing, who decides which international recruitment partners are used.

6. **How many international Doctors/Nurse/AHP did the trust receive in the financial year 2023/24?**

Staff Group	Number of Staff Recruited from overseas 23/24	WTE
Allied Health Professionals	16	16.0
Medical and Dental	62	61.8
Nursing and Midwifery Registered	92	91.1

7. What was the international recruitment spend Bifurcated by Doctors / Nurses / AHP by the trust for the financial year 23/24?

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

Whilst East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) 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 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 information broken down to this level, could disclose the rates that the agencies are charging the Trust. Agencies may use this information to request increased rates to ESHT and other NHS Trusts, putting supply at risk.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

However, the total spend on International Recruitment for Financial Year 2023/24 was £881,457.

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