

FOI REF: 25/052

10th 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. **In the previous 36 months on how many occasions have you engaged the services of an Executive Search recruitment company? i.e. a recruitment service for senior staff on a retained fee basis.**

[3 searches.](#)

2. **If the response to Request 1 is positive what fees, either in percentage or a pounds and pence figure, where paid by your organisation to the supplier.**

[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 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.](#)

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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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