

Compliance Team – Health Records

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FOI REQUEST NUMBER 96 2015

Request:

1. Please can you separately tell me the total amount spent by the Trust on agency nurses and locum doctors during the periods:

April 2013 to March 2014;
April 2014 to September 2014.

For clarification purposes, an 'agency nurse' or 'locum doctor' is a person who has been introduced to the Trust for hire on a temporary assignment / engagement by an employment business ('agencies'). This is not the same as a flexible worker engaged via bank.

2. Please can you tell me whether your Trust uses agencies who have been awarded a framework for their supply such as those provided by Crown Commercial Services. If yes, please can you tell me the name of the framework used. If no, can you please tell me the percentage spent with any non-framework agencies? Where this information is not readily available, please provide an estimate.
3. Please can you tell me whether there is a member of your Trust's Board who is accountable for overseeing the use of temporary staff and whether temporary staff usage is regularly discussed at Board meetings. If yes, can you please tell me whether the Board member is a non-executive or an employee of the Trust? If a Trust employee, please can you tell me the role that person has within the Trust.
4. Please can you tell me whether your Trust is considering recruiting nurses from overseas in the next 12 months? If yes, can you please confirm the number of nurses and roles your Trust is looking to recruit and the countries you are considering recruiting from.

Response:

1. April 2013 to March 2014
£2,174,433.76 - for Agency Nurses (both qualified and unqualified nurse grades)
£335,681.41 - for Locum Doctors (this includes all medical related grades)

April 2014 to September 2014

£2,109,876.64 - for Agency Nurses (both qualified and unqualified nurse grades)
£200,389.00 - for Locum Doctors (this includes all medical related grades)

NOTE: we do not separately identify the different medical related grades within the Trust as we only use 1 account code to capture the expenditure, therefore separately identifying just Doctors is not possible. I.e. under the medical account code it will capture all medical grades such as Doctors, Junior Doctors, Consultants, Associate Specialists etc.

2. The frame works used are under Crown Commercial Services – the % of non framework agencies are in Specialist Services and legacy agreements currently standing at 20% but continues to reduce. To provide further information would take in excess of the 18 hours appropriate time limit set under the Freedom of Information Act.
3. Leigh Howlett the Director of Strategy and Resource is the lead in the sense of managing the NHS Professionals contract. The staff are mostly employed within direct care services and detailed analysis takes place as part of the financial recovery programme. Therefore, the Directors of Operations who are Debbie White (Norfolk) and Alison Armstrong (Suffolk) would be accountable for the spend. All strategic recruitment matters are discussed monthly at the Trusts Recruitment and Retention Strategy Meeting against a managed project risk log. The use of temporary staff is discussed at Board Level as part of the Finance Report submitted on a monthly basis.
4. No. The Trust is not considering recruiting nurses from overseas. This has previously been discussed within the organisation and the decision made not to pursue an overseas recruitment campaign for nurses at this time.