

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act Reference 2021.815**  
**Released 4 June 2021**

Thank you for your email dated 7 May 2021 requesting information regarding medical locums and agency doctors.

Please find detailed below a summary of your original request together with our response.

**Original request:**

- 1. What contractual relationships are in place for supplying agency doctors and who is responsible for managing them?**

We have beneficiary notices for all of our framework clinical agencies either against RM616 (new framework) or a previous framework NHSCPP2015/011.

- 2. Who is your primary point of contact for decision making regarding supply chain for Agency Doctors?**

Gordon Flack, Finance Director.

- 3. How many agencies are used to supply agency doctors?**

We use 16 agencies to supply agency doctors.

- 4. Of these agencies, how many are off framework – please list them?**

None of these agencies are off framework.

- 5. Over the past 6 months, how many shifts have been filled via an off framework agency?**

No shifts have been filled via an off-framework agency.

- 6. Who is your highest paid agency doctor, what is their speciality and their hourly charge?**

We are unable to provide the level of detail requested as disclosure of this information could lead to the identification of any individuals.

Many staff are well connected through their working roles and the risk of re-identification amongst staff members is much higher than by the general public, particularly given the nature of a community health trust which works in the community from such a wide variety of locations. As a general rule, staff would expect the details of personnel matters to remain confidential. Considering the ICO's motivated intruder test outlined in the anonymisation code of practice, a motivated individual could be a staff member or individual who is aware of an agency worker within a speciality. The Trust considers it equally important to protect personal data from disclosure to other members of staff, as it is to the general public.

**Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley**

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FOI legislation requires organisations to treat each FOI request as applicant blind and organisations are also required to publish their responses. This means that any information released under the FOI Act is in effect released to the world and as such we need to protect certain types of information from being exploited by those that have access to it. Our FOI disclosures are located on our public website here: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/about-us/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/#foidisclosurelog>. Requesters' names and contact details are removed prior to publication.

The Information Commissioner's (ICO) guidance on what is personal data states this to be any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. If an individual cannot be directly identified from the information, it may still be possible to identify them and organisations are to consider all the means reasonably likely to be used to identify an individual.

The information you have requested is therefore exempt under Section 40(2) in conjunction with Section 40(3)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which relates to 'Personal Information'. An excerpt of the relevant Freedom of Information legislation can be found below:

**Section 40 – Personal information**  
 (2) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if—  
 (a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and  
 (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.  
 (3) The first condition is—  
 (a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of “data” in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene —  
 (i) any of the data protection principles

**7. Please outline your spend per agency, broken down by grade and speciality of doctor over the past 6 months?**

The table below outlines our agency spend between November 2020 and April 2021:

Agency	Service	Grade	TOTAL (£)
<b>Accident &amp; Emergency Agency Ltd</b>	West Kent Community Hospitals	Locum Specialty Doctor	12,870
<b>Athona Ltd</b>	East Kent Medical Staffing	Locum Specialty Doctor	5,962
	West Kent Community Hospitals	Locum Specialty Doctor	21,710
	West Kent Intermediate Care	Locum Specialty Doctor	126,343
<b>DRC Locums Ltd</b>	East Kent Medical Staffing	Locum Specialty Doctor	10,148
	West Kent Community Hospitals	Locum Specialty Doctor	67,292

	West Kent Intermediate Care	Locum Specialty Doctor	72,796
<b>ID Medical Group Ltd</b>	East Kent Medical Staffing	Locum Specialty Doctor	63,180
<b>Tukmachi Ltd</b>	Paediatrics Service	Locum Consultant	-20,520
<b>Unidentified Agency</b> <i>(Agency Accruals before Agency known)</i>	Covid-19 - Additional Costs	Locum Specialty Doctor	91,204
	East Kent Medical Staffing	Locum Specialty Doctor	-69,317
	Paediatrics Service	Locum Consultant	-760
	Reserves	Locum Specialty Doctor	473
	West Kent Community Hospitals	Locum Specialty Doctor	11,925
	West Kent Intermediate Care	Locum Specialty Doctor	42,548
	West Kent Minor Injuries Unit	Locum Specialty Doctor	591
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>436,445</b>

**8. Do you have a Master Vendor for Agency Doctors In place? If so, who are they and when are they contracted until?**

No we do not have a Master Vendor for agency doctors.

**9. If you have a Master Vendor in place, What is your current average % fill rate from your Master Vendor Provider for Medical Locums for the past 6 months?**

**10. If you have a Master Vendor in place, How many hours of work for medical locums have been booked outside of your Master Vendor arrangement in the past 6 months?**

**11. If you have a Master Vendor in place, What % of bookings by your Master Vendor Provider are at the NHSI capped rates in the past 6 months?**

Questions 9, 10 and 11 are not applicable, as we have no Master Vendor in place.

**12. What is your total (£) off framework agency spend for Agency Doctors?**

Zero. We do not use off-framework agencies for doctors.

**13. Does the trust utilise a Direct Engagement method of payment for agency doctors and if so whom?**

No, the Trust does not utilise Direct Engagement for agency doctors.

**14. What % of Agency Doctors are paid via Direct Engagement Method? And Outside of Direct Engagement?**

Not applicable, see our response to the previous question.

**15. How many doctors working are Deemed Outside of IR35 working at the trust?**

We have no doctors who are deemed outside of IR35 working at the trust.